Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 91

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY MAY 9, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

BASED ON LATEST SURVEYS

No CMS jeopardies found

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The latest inspections by the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services on the Commonwealth Health Center has yielded the best possible news for the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

The CMS team that did the inspection last April 21 through April 26 for a routine five-year survey of the CNMI hospital found no immediate jeopardies—contrary to the results of previous inspections.

"All 21 of the conditions of participation applicable to

See CMS on Page 4

Review of PSS pay plan OK'd

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the Public School System facing a financial tight spot, the Board of Education directed PSS officials last Tuesday morning to seek an outside company that would review and revise their current compensation plan—just two years after it was implemented.

At their six-hour meeting last Tuesday, the BOE unanimously approved a motion to direct PSS to issue a request for proposal for a third-party company that would review the just-implemented com-

See REVIEW on Page 4

NMI's budget shortfall at 11.6 pct.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI government expects to see an 11.6-percent budget shortfall this fiscal year, and the Finance Department is recommending further adjustment to fund government operations and activities.

In a letter to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told the two legislative leaders that Finance Secretary David Atalig had advised that the expected budgetary resources be reduced by another $17.9 million or 7.3 percent. That would bring the reductions in the current fiscal year to about $29.9 million.

"This [$17.9 million] is in addition to the $12-million reduction reported in an ear-

See BUDGET on Page 4

Mayor Atalig's jury trial postponed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court granted yesterday the request of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, to postpone the jury trial in their case.

Manglona

The trial was originally set to start on June 4, 2019; the new trial date is Oct. 1, 2019.

At a brief pre-trial conference, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated the jury trial and set the new date.

The Ataligs, who are both in Manila, the Philippines, right now, appeared by telephone at the conference.

Manglona earlier granted their request to appear via telephone.

See MAYOR on Page 4

REPAIR NEEDED
Six months after Super Typhoon Yutu, the sign in front of the Tinian Mayor's Office remains unrepaired and many people—including the CNMI government—are still slowly recovering from the typhoon's lingering impact. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE

LOCAL
Romolo Orsini is the overall winner in Gold's Gym Saipan's weight loss competition.

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NATION
Two students open fire at a charter school in Denver, killing one and wounding eight.

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WORLD
Some 40,000 Paraguayans have been evacuated in recent weeks because of intense floods.

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Participants in the 2019 Gold's Gym Transformation Challenge are joined on stage by family members, friends, and Gold's Gym staff during the awarding ceremony. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gold's Gym gives away $5,000; Orsini rules competition

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gold's Gym Saipan recently gave away a total of $5,000 as part of its cash awards in a weight loss competition they held for their members, with Romolo Orsini bringing home the trophy as the overall winner, earning for himself $1,000 cash and a one-year Gold's Gym membership.

The competition, called the 2019 Gold's Gym Transformation Challenge—a 12-week weight loss competition—started with 60 challengers and ended with only 35.

Collectively, the 35 competitors lost over 519 pounds, which averaged to 18.6 pounds per person—15.2 pounds were estimated to be fat body mass and an average decrease in percentage body fat of 5.2 percent, according to general manager Tyce Mister.

"This year's Challenge was amazing. It ran 12 weeks, beginning halfway through January until the middle of May. …With a contest like this, everyone who rose to the challenge comes out a winner," Mister said.

"This is a transformation challenge and we want everyone to be safe," said Aaron Tomokane, Gold's Gym's certified personal trainer. "We encourage body fat loss when necessary to be healthier, but we want to see lean body mass [muscle] either maintained or even increased. …It is very difficult to lose fat body mass and at the same time maintain or even gain lean body mass."

A total of 10 participants were awarded with cash prizes. Aside from Orsini, the other winners were Joann Villena, who won $500 and a Gold's Gym certificate for six months as first place in the women's division for ages 18 to 34; May Cabrera and Brittany Hodge, who won second and third, respectively, earning them $300 and a certificate for three months and $200 and a certificate for one month each; Alfreda Camacho won the women's 35 and over division, earning her $500 and a certificate to the gym worth six months; Shielane Seno won $300 and a certificate for three months for second place; third placer Cherlyn Cabrera nabbed $200 and a one-month certificate to the gym.

Jeffrey Bahillo won the men's division for 18 to 34, earning him $500 and a six-month Gold's Gym certificate while Michael Pabalan earned $300 and a three-month certificate for second place. Michael Morales got $200 and a month's certificate for garnering third place.

Brad Ruszala won first in the men's 35 and higher division, netting him $500 and a gym certificate worth six months while Ronnel Mostales won $300 and a three-month certificate. Robert Coldeen got $200 and a month's certificate for garnering third place.

Man accused of punching girlfriend pleads guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man accused of punching his girlfriend last New Year's Day pleaded guilty last Tuesday.

Lucio Litulumar Saures, through his lawyer, Heather Zona, told the court last Monday about his decision to change his initial plea of not guilty.

In the plea agreement offered him by the prosecution, Saures would plead guilty to assault and battery domestic violence.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Saures was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for the seven days he has already served.

Saures was also placed on two years of probation and would be required to serve 100 hours of community service, pay a fine of $1,000, pay off court and probation fees, participate in counseling, and submit to urine or blood testing.

Saures is prohibited from drinking alcohol and using any other controlled substance while under probation.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, imposed the sentence, accepted Saures' plea change, and ordered Saures to return to court on Aug. 13 for a review hearing.

According to court information, Saures punched his girlfriend in the face during an argument at the Sonoda Apartment in Garapan last Jan. 1.

See ACCUSED on Next Page

Zajradhara sues again

Zaji O. Zajradhara, a man who complained of being discriminated against in prior lawsuits, is suing again, this time against the company that owns the Eucon International University.

Zajradhara, through counsel Daniel T. Guidotti, has filed a discrimination lawsuit against CWM International Inc., which owns Eucon International University, accusing it of retaliation and breach of contract.

Zajradhara is demanding back pay, compensation, damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from CWM International.

According to Guidotti in the complaint, Zajradhara applied for an office position at CWM in January 2018. He learned of the vacancy from CWM's online posting at the CNMI Labor website.

Guidotti said that Zajradhara and several non-U.S. citizens were interviewed for the position.

Guidotti said that CWM eventually selected one of its current employees, a non-U.S. citizen CW-1 worker, to fill the position.

After finding out about this, Zajradhara filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He asserted that CWM did not hire him based on his race and national origin.

Zajradhara is of Afro-Latino descent.

In February 2018, Zajradhara initiated a case with CNMI Labor in which he asserted that the company had violated the U.S. citizen employment preference by rejecting his application.

Guidotti said that, on March 14, 2018, during a mediation hearing in the Labor case, Zajradhara and CWM settled both the Labor case and his pending EEOC charge.

In the settlement, the lawyer said, CWM hired Zajradhara as an office employee, starting Oct. 1, 2018.

He accepted the office employee position in full settlement of the Labor case. He promised to recommend dismissal of the EEOC charge of discrimination.

EEOC then granted Zajradhara's recommendation to dismiss his charge.

Guidotti said that during the settlement discussions, the CWM representative did not disclose to Zajradhara that CWM intended to require him to adhere to certain religious principles as a condition of his job.

On Oct. 3, 2018, Zajradhara went to CWM's Gualo Rai business office to begin work.

A CWM staff allegedly presented Zajradhara with several documents, including a faculty contract and a statement of faith.

Guidotti said Zajradhara signed some of the documents, but noted that he had his own ancestral religious ideology.

Two days later, on Oct. 5, an Asian woman allegedly berated him in front of other employees. It began when the woman allegedly approached Zajradhara and demanded that he tell her his name.

Guidotti said the woman accused Zajradhara of removing office files, ordered him to remove a bandanna he was wearing, accused him of doing no work the previous day and that he could not type fast enough.

The lawyer said the woman also accused him of wasting her students' money and that she believed that he was working at CWM in order to "make trouble."

At the end of the day, Guidotti said the CWM representative terminated Zajradhara, allegedly because his dress was not in accordance with CWM's religious ideology.

On Oct. 12, 2018, CWM delivered the termination letter to Zajradhara.

Guidotti said CWM intentionally discriminated against Zajradhara because he is of Afro-Latino descent and because he is dark skinned. Previously, Zajradhara filed separate lawsuits against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. before the U.S. District Court for the NMI and the Superior Court over his termination from employment with CUC in October 2014.

In those lawsuits, he alleged that, while employed at CUC, he was subjected to a hostile workplace. CUC denied the allegations.

He alleged that the termination was on the pretext that he had been caught in possession of illegal drugs.

A copy of CUC Personnel Committee's order filed in court showed that Zajradhara had been employed by CUC since May of 2013 and that, in the course of the next 13 months, he was reprimanded by CUC on several occasions for various instances of misconduct.

Among these were smoking inside the CUC power plant compound, in violation of CUC policy; using a CUC printer to print a 70-page marijuana catalog; and testing positive for an illegal substance.

In August 2018, CUC settled the two lawsuits. The terms of the settlement were kept confidential.

In June 2017, Zajradhara filed a complaint before CNMI Labor against an employer who operated a small shop in Garapan called Mini Gift Shop and a small tour business.

He alleged that the employer, Li Feng (USA) Corp., violated CNMI job preference laws by rejecting his application for a job.

Robert T. Torres and Oliver Manglona served as counsel for Li Feng (USA) Corp.

In July 2018, Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody issued a judgment in favor of Li Feng and against Zajradhara.

Cody ruled that, by failing to participate in the interview, Zajradhara caused his own claim to fail.

Cody said the employer has now replaced its CW-1 status salesperson with a lawful permanent resident, and thus, no violation of the CNMI's job preference statute has occurred. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man accused of slicing another's arm with machete found guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPEORTER

A man accused of slicing another man's arm with a machete in 2017 in a drunken fit of rage was found guilty yesterday of just the disturbing the peace charge but not on two other charges

Scott Patrick Owen, 42, was found guilty by a six-person Superior Court jury of disturbing the peace but was found not guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery.

The verdict was reached after a two-day trial that started last Monday.

According to the prosecution, the charge of disturbing the peace is punishable by up to five months in prison.

Owen is set to return to court to be sentened in July.

Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio said that usually, if a defendant is found guilty, they are remanded back to Department of Corrections to await sentencing.

However, Owen's lawyer, Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, argued that many factors prove that Owen is not a flight risk.

Kim-Tenorio allowed Owen to wait out his sentencing out of custody with all bail conditions still active.

During the two-day jury trial, the government, represented by Office of the Attorney General's Charlie Lee, called several witnesses to the stand, including the victim, Lo Dong Yang.

Yang told the jury about the events on Nov. 18, 2017, that led to Owen slicing his arm.

Yang's testimony, which required the help of translators, appeared to revolve around miscommunication between Owen, him, and the three other men who were involved because of the language barrier.

Owen's story, told through multiple Department of Public Safety officers assigned to the case, described the events as all a drunken mistake. In Owen's interview with police, he stated that he merely wanted to show Yang the machete and how sharp it was but, because he was drunk, he ended up slicing Yang's arm instead.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, police received a call about an assault with a dangerous weapon at the Sablan barracks compound back in 2017.

When police arrived at the compound, they saw two Chinese men holding a man, later identified as Owen.

Police saw that Owen had bloodstains all over his clothes. Owen allegedly resisted the officer.

Police noticed that, among the Chinese men in the area, was one whose left forearm was bleeding badly due to a laceration.

The alleged victim told police that he was playing mahjong with another man when Owen came and sat by the table, drinking a bottle of vodka. Three more men came, drank with the alleged victim, and joined the game.

The victim said the problem started when he and his companions began speaking Chinese. Owen stood up and yelled profanities at them. He got a machete from his room and brandished it at those playing mahjong.

The victim said he made a gesture for Owen to calm down, but the suspect instead sliced his left forearm.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Calling all NMD's

Do you consider yourself of Northern Marinas descent? If you do, come to the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku (next to CK Post Office) this Saturday, May 11, 2019, at 11am for a discussion on NMD benefits. For more information, call John Castro at 789-8087. ***(PR)***

Taste of the Marianas every Saturday

The 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park beginning at 6pm.

Registration is open for the first 10 participants in this Saturday's BBQ Whole Chicken Cook-off, with hundreds of dollars in prizes for the Top 3 winners.

This Saturday's entertainment includes Studio M Show, Saipan International School, Da Kine Band, Tieul Belau, Guam Poksai Chamorro/RCC of Marianas High, and Teivi Maori.

Cook-off registration forms and rules are available on the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Military training today in open ocean

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct an open-ocean exercise today, May 9, from 2pm to 10pm at the coordinates 13° 26"N/145° 08"E and 13° 42"N/144° 36"E.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from the area during the date and times indicated.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. ***(PR)***

REVIEW

From Page 1

pensation plan, which basically increased PSS salaries across the board

BOE Saipan representative Marylou Ada made the motion for the issuance of an RFP, with the goal to make the compensation plan "more fair and equitable."

Then-acting education commissioner Lynnette Villagomez declined to comment whether the compensation plan was unfair or inequitable, when *Saipan Tribune* sought her comments on the matter and left the question to current Education Commissioner Glenn Muña.

BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio noted in an interview Tuesday that, although premature, she is open to talks of a revised compensation plan—even if the third-party company recommends a reduction in compensation across the board.

"A third-party company would be more effective," Tenorio said.

The current compensation plan was handled at the time by then-education commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero

"In the current compensation plan, the experience, credentials, and years of service [determines the compensation]. Years of service are of course a merit we have to acknowledge, [and] it made the salaries higher," Tenorio said.

Tenorio conceded that, when the compensation adjustment was done sometime in 2017, the across-the-board-increase was implemented without a supporting contingency plan.

"When we did the increase, it was across the board, but the financial analysis and the budget impact, to be honest, we didn't really dive into. It was a happy time—money was spilling into PSS and the Legislature and the government was really supporting [PSS]," she said.

In defense of the compensation plan, she argued that the salaries were adjusted in order to provide a more competitive and attractive compensation plan to entice teachers to work within PSS.

"We couldn't get teacher from the U.S. mainland to come here because the salaries were very low. That was the rationale behind paying individuals in the system who have worked hard for their personal credentials to earn what they should earn," Tenorio noted.

MAYOR

From Page 1

The court-appointed counsel for Efraim Atalig, David George Banes, informed the court last Tuesday that the mayor just went through open-heart surgery in in the Philippines.

In Efraim Atalig's request to appear by telephone, Banes said the mayor needs to undergo rehabilitation treatment and physical therapy thrice a week and will not be able to return to the CNMI to attend the pretrial conference.

Efraim Atalig also joined in Evelyn Atalig's motion to postpone the jury trial.

Banes and Evelyn Atalig's court-appointed counsel, Steven Pixley, appeared in court yesterday. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, who appeared as counsel for the U.S. government, did not oppose the trial's postponement.

The Ataligs have been charged with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each of them faces a separate charge of false statement.

They have pleaded not guilty.

CMS

From Page 1

the CHCC were surveyed," a CHCC statement noted. "…It was announced that the CMS surveyors found no situations at the level of immediate jeopardy."

An immediate jeopardy is a finding where a healthcare provider's noncompliance with one or more requirements to participate in CMS programs will likely cause serious injury, harm, impairment, or even death of a patient.

While no immediate jeopardies were found, CHCC noted that no facility is perfect and CHC was no exception.

"…Corrective actions began immediately to resolve all adverse findings by the surveyors," CHCC noted.

It expects to receive an official written report on the CMS survey findings, providing further clarification on hospital functions that need to be addressed and improved.

A second survey on the CHCC Life Safety Codes was conducted from April 28 to April 29 and no immediate jeopardies were found and, like the hospital survey, "corrective actions have already begun," CHCC noted, adding that the corporation expects to receive a report on the survey results "shortly."

The last survey CMS did on CHC was on Sept. 12, 2014, where the hospital was found in violation of seven out of 24 standard conditions.

On Oct. 25, 2016, CHCC received a letter from the CMS providing it with more time to correct its shortcomings since the last survey.

CHCC relies on CMS funding for their participation as a provider of services under the Medicare Program established under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña noted in a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune* that CHCC had been out of compliance with these standards since 2011.

BUDGET

From Page 1

lier letter to the Legislature. Percentage-wise, the $17.9 million is a reduction in total [fiscal year] 2019 budgetary resources of 7.3 percent from the previous reduction," said Torres in the letter.

"Combining the two reductions results in a total reduction of 11.6 percent from the original [fiscal year] 2019 budgetary resources. With the additional $17.9 million reduction, total budgetary resources for [fiscal year] 2019 must be reduced by approximately $29.9 million."

The administration's original estimated revenues for fiscal year 2019 was $258 million. This would go down to $228 million after the $30 million reductions in the first two quarters of the current fiscal year. The government's revised budget authority is now at $141 million.

Finance had already projected a $12-million budget reduction, which was reported to the Legislature last March. Torres cited Super Typhoon Yutu as the major contributor.

"My administration explained that the devastating impact of Super Typhoon Yutu was a major contributing factor in the initial decline in projected revenues," said Torres, who added that adjustments were necessary due to the decrease in revenues.

He expects revenue collection to pick up in the second quarter. "At the time of transmitting the prior letter, we were optimistic that revenue would rebound, as most of the damage from Yutu was remedied and the tourism industry was steadily regaining its footing. Unfortunately, this has not occurred to the degree necessary to stave off further reductions in expenditures and additional cost-containment measures."

Torres said the decision was very difficult "but it is necessary in order to ensure the fiscal viability of the Commonwealth in the long term. We will continue to prioritize meeting payroll for our government employees, but we recommend all branches to take steps within their operational budget as a response to the current fiscal conditions." "We understand that this reduction will have an impact on public operations and services, but we must…realign government spending with available resources."

"We have already taken…steps to curtail costs, but it is imperative that we…identify areas that can be reduced [further]," added Torres.

Super Typhoon Yutu

He reminded everyone that Yutu was one of the reasons why the CNMI is currently in its current predicament.

Torres said the loss in economic activity in the first two quarters of the current fiscal year are still being felt by the CNMI to this day, with tourist arrivals dropping by 39.8 percent in March.

"In order to meet the demand of recovery, local resources had to be expended for the upfront costs of the storms' impact. Evidently, it led to an efficient response and faster recovery through the expedient delivery of public services so that our people could feel whole again."

He said the next step is sustaining economic recovery.

ACCUSED

From Page 3

He then left and took their children with him.

Police were sent to the apartment at 3:29am. Upon arriving at the scene, a police officer met with the victim, identified as Saures' partner. Police reported a bruise on the victim's face.

It was learned that one of the victim's children witnessed the scene. The 14-year-old child saw Saures punch the victim and left her unconscious on the ground before taking them away.

Saures was arrested at the MIHA housing.

The seven Liberation Day Queen 2019 candidates pose for a photo with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and 2019 Liberation Day committee chair Joe Ayuyu Jr.

ERWIN ENCINARES

MPLT's Pangelinan raises concerns over line of credit for the NMI govt

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request for a line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust is proving to be far from being an open-and-shut case, with MPLT vice chair Maria Frica T. Pangelinan raising some concerns with the proposal.

She said in last Monday's board meeting that MPLT's duty is to protect and invest the public land revenues it receives from the Department of Public Lands.

"Our fiduciary duty is to safeguard the funds and invest it, based on the Constitution's Article 11," she said. "You have to forgive me, but I call this [line of credit request] as bailing out a very distressed government. I don't think that it is our duty to do that."

MPLT trustee Vianney B. Hocog of Rota described the current financial situation of the CNMI government as "very shaky."

Pangelinan said the MPLT board then must determine the "real intent" of the line of credit request. She pointed out that the bill to authorize the line of credit, House Bill 21-44, is saying that the line of credit's procedure would be a drawdown of funds that are needed while the governor's letter states that it will be a drawdown to meet the bond obligation and payment to the Settlement Fund.

"The governor's request conceptualizes the definition of investment, as defined in the Constitution. Investment is the major trust why we're here," she added.

Pangelinan, who is one of four former lawmakers that are members of the MPLT board, thinks the bailout is not the right approach.

"My concern is the request must be defended legally, whether it is an investment that can be accommodated under the diversified local investment portfolio," she said.

She clarified that she has not decided yet on the governor's request but, whatever her eventual decision may be, "it will be based…on the response on the concerns and the questions that I have and raised.

"How should we address this request and which asset allocation would be reduced to accommodate such request? What's the category of the request?" added Pangelinan.

She asked if the line of credit would fall under the definition of an investment, loan, or an advance against future earnings.

"The discussion that we need to establish first is the definition of investment. It must be cleared by our legal counsel so we can move on. The request, is it categorized under diversified local investment?

"If it is, does it need the standard provision of investment policy? If it is a loan, then we should end the discussion because we don't give loans. So, I really believe that the legal definition should first be defended by our legal counsel with respect to pursuing the discussion whether the loan merits the time that we need to go along with the discussion."

Torres had asked MPLT for a credit facility through the Department of Finance in order to help the government secure its bond obligations and its court-ordered payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

LibDay Queen candidates are presented to the public

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The public had its first glimpse last Wednesday afternoon at the Saipan Mayor's Office of the seven candidates who would be vying for the 2019 Liberation Day Queen tiara.

The seven candidates are Pernalyn Camacho, Lea Salalila, Rhe'ann Tudela, Angel Deleon Guerrero, Kiara Nekaifes, Nadine Kapileo, and Regiene Babauta.

The seven were joined by their parents Wednesday at the Saipan Mayor's Office for the signing of their contracts to join the pageant as well as for the pinning of sashes, indicating that they are the pageant's official candidates.

Last year's Liberation Day Queen. Brinae Jessilyn M. Cruz, noted that she would be supporting the candidates in their journey toward the 2019 Liberation Day Queen crowning.

"We can dig deeper as to how we can fundraise and all that when we have our girl's night. What I can say is that I know all of you guys are hardworking and dedicated, which is why you all joined," Cruz said in a brief speech. "Thank you for joining and I extend my deepest gratitude to your parents as well. I know this would be a long journey, but it's going to be worth it. You are going to have so much fun with it and it would be good exposure for yourself."

The 2019 Liberation Day committee chair, Joe Ayuyu Jr., bid good luck to all the pageant candidates.

"We want to see all of you wearing the crown, like Brinae," he said. "Some of you would be coming into this pageant shy and not so talkative, but what I can say is that you guys are [braver] than I am because, at your age…I wasn't involved with doing things like this. You are definitely a step ahead."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said in an interview that this pageant would be a first step out of the candidayes' comfort zones.

"This would be a good experience for them," he said. "It is good experience for the girls to go out and meet the challenges of the community because that is how it is in the real world."

The Liberation Queen pageant is a fundraiser for the Liberation Day festivities on July 4. The candidates would be given a fixed time to raise funds and whoever raises the biggest amount is declared the pageant winner.

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'Taste' festival to feature BBQ whole chicken cookoff

Following a successful kick off of the 21st Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Saturday (May 4) in celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is now gearing up for this Saturday's (May 11) festivities, featuring the BBQ Whole Chicken Cook-off.

The MVA is seeking 10 chefs to participate, and registration is free. Registration forms are available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com, and prizes will include:

■ first place, one-night stay and dinner buffer for two at Hyatt Regency Saipan and a $250 gift certificate from Chairman M restaurant;

■ second place, Sunday brunch for two at Giovanni's at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Sunday brunch for two at World Café at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and a $150 gift certificate from Chairman M restaurant; and

■ third place, cultural dinner show for two at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and a $100 gift certificate to Chairman M restaurant.

At last Saturday's Kadun Pika Cook-off, Shane Villanueva took from bragging rights and first place for his Pika Beer-flavored entry, earning a dinner buffet for two at Killi Café and one night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan, a $250 gift certificate to Chairman M restaurant, and a $50 gift certificate to Ladder Beach Restaurant (nearly $900 in prizes). Second place went to Kumpaires, the duo of Freddy Salavaria and Francis Mendiola, who won Sunday brunch for two at Giovanni's at Hyatt Regency Saipan, a $150 gift certificate to Chairman M restaurant, lunch for two at World Café at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and a $125 gift certificate to Ladder Beach Restaurant (over $400 in prizes). Benjamin Paul Mangloan and Buddy Igitol of Guns & Hoses took third place and a $100 gift certificate to Chairman M restaurant, seafood dinner for two at World Café at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and a $75 gift certificate to Ladder Beach Restaurant (over $200 in prizes). Other contestants were Andrew Songsong, Jesse Mesa, Angel Reyes, Jose Barola, and Richard Meimban.

CNMI Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios joined members of the MVA board of directors and other dignitaries in opening the festival with an official ceremony, where acting MVA managing director Judy Torres welcomed the crowd.

"We would like to give a big thank you to our sponsors: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific International, HANMI, Ina's Kitchen, Dave Electronics, Hawaiian Rock Products, Ladder Beach Restaurant, J's Restaurant...as well as our friends at the National Parks Service for once again allowing us to use the American Memorial Park for one of most anticipated events of the year," Torres said. "We would also like to appreciate our government agency partners—CUC, DPS, DFEMS, DLNR, BEH, Department of Commerce, and the Saipan Mayor's Office—for supporting this event. Thank you...for your continued support of the CNMI tourism industry and the MVA as we work tirelessly to promote the Marianas to the world."

Kensington Hotel Saipan serves traditional Japanese food at the 21st Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2019, at the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

The MVA is also accepting applications for the J's Fried Rice Eating Contest on May 18 sponsored by J's Restaurant. The festival will also feature the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Junior Chefs Competition on May 25, also sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

The Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden is an annual signature event of the MVA and is one of the largest celebrations in the Marianas.

The festival features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non- stop live entertainment on the main stage.

Each Saturday this year, the first 40 patrons to purchase $40 or more in Taste tokens will receive a free caricature sketch by Ronald Valiente.

Twenty-three food and drink vendors offer their tastiest dishes and brews at American Memorial Park during the event. The festival offers delights from the kitchens of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, D'Elegance Cafe, Kanoa Resort, Terry's Snack Bar, Furusato Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Mystique BBQ, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Kinpachi Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Ina's Kitchen, Matty's BBQ, Tropical Chill, The Hut, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Java Joe's, and Thai House. Drinks are offered by Saipan Brewing Co., MarPac, and Pacific Trading Co.

The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night). For more information, visit www.facebook.com/mymarianas or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Furasato Restaurant serves "takoyaki" (octopus balls) at the 21st Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2019, at the American Memorial Park. MVA

Man in domestic violence case agrees to plead guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who is being accused of beating his girlfriend has accepted the plea offer of the prosecution last Tuesday; that means he will now plead guilty to the allegations.

Brandon Mundo Aldan, 21, through his lawyer, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, informed the court that he has reached an agreement with the prosecution and would like to change his plea.

Under the agreement, Aldan would plead guilty to assault and battery. In exchange, all other charges against him would be dropped.

Aldan was originally charged with assault and battery, strangulation, and criminal mischief.

The agreement also states that Aldan would be sentenced to a one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for the three days he has already served.

Aldan will be placed on two years of probation and required to serve 100 hours of community service, pay a fine of $500, pay off court and probation fees, participate in counseling, and submit to urine or blood testing.

Aldan is barred from drinking alcohol and using any controlled substance while under probation.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja ordered Aldan to return to court on Aug. 13 for a review hearing.

Aldan, a Tinian resident, was arrested after attending a party last March 9 for allegedly throwing a tire at his girlfriend in a fit of rage. He also allegedly choked and punched her.

The victim then called the Department of Public Safety at about 10:14pm, asking for police assistance.

At the scene, officers noticed that the victim had a slight swelling on her face and damage to the vehicle she was in.

The victim told police that she and Aldan had attended a family party prior to the incident. She said Aldan got drunk at the party and tried to pick a fight with everyone at the party, even his own brother.

As the victim and Aldan were leaving, she said that they offered Aldan's brother and his girlfriend a ride but, during the ride, Aldan and his brother got into an argument. Aldan made his brother and his girlfriend get out of the car and told them to walk home.

The victim said she then pulled over at the Natibu Park and got into an argument with Aldan, who slapped the victim and punched her before exiting. Aldan then walked over to the passenger side and choked the victim. After that, Aldan took a spare tire from behind the car and threw it at the windshield. Aldan also took a pipe from behind the car and hit the victim's vehicle.

Aldan ran away after the victim called the police but he was later traced back to his house where he was arrested.

HANMI GOLF TOURNEY Supporters
Marianas Variety publisher Laila Boyer, center, donates $1,200 in advertising on May 2, 2019, at the newspaper office in Garapan, for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on May 11, 2019. From left are tournament committee member Socorro Huliganga, *Marianas Variety* account executive Jeanette Sarabia, Boyer, and tournament committee members Steve Jang and Catherine Perry.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shift agent Ronald Alcantara, right, of CTSI Logistics, donates $300 for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament scheduled for May 11, 2019. Receiving the donation at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, Saipan, is tournament committee member Glenn Policare.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-013

OFFICE RENOVATION FOR CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CENTRAL STATISTICS DIVISION

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Office Renovation for CNMI Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 2, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 10, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Ladera Center Building Beach Road the former Mayor's Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 13, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW19-IFB-013**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 17, 2019**. All BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 17, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 17, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Forty Five (45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Five Hundred (US$500.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

MARK O. RABAULIMAN
Secretary of Commerce

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-018
Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

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Scheduled power interruptions

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019-
6:30am to 6:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan Road
- Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road and Obyan
- Water service area(s) affected: San Antonio, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, San Jose, Oleai, As Perdido, Chalan Laulau Beach Road, Koblerville, Afetnas may be affected depending on tank level (6:30a m to 8:30a m)
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019-
7:30am to 6:30 pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019-8:30 am to 1:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Isley Field, Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: None
- Water service area(s) affected: Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Fina Sisu, Chalan Laulau Middle
- Road, Kannat Tabla, Lower Dandan, Airport Road, As Perdido, Koblerville, and Tottotville
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019-
7:30am to 6:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan Road
- Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 -
8am to 4pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- Village location: As Lito
- Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, As Lito
- Water service area(s) affected: San Vicente, portions of Dandan and Obyan
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-15
- Work to be performed: Replacement of two wood poles with concrete poles

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019-
8am to 1pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
- Village location: Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill
- Power service area(s) affected: Ascencion Drive and Wireless
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Relocate one concrete pole

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019-
7:30am to 6:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan Road
- Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

The purpose of these scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from CUC and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, the ability to safely conduct maintenance associated with the ongoing restoration effort in the aforementioned locations.

Water service may be interrupted in the villages of Dandan and As Lito during the scheduled outages.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 91

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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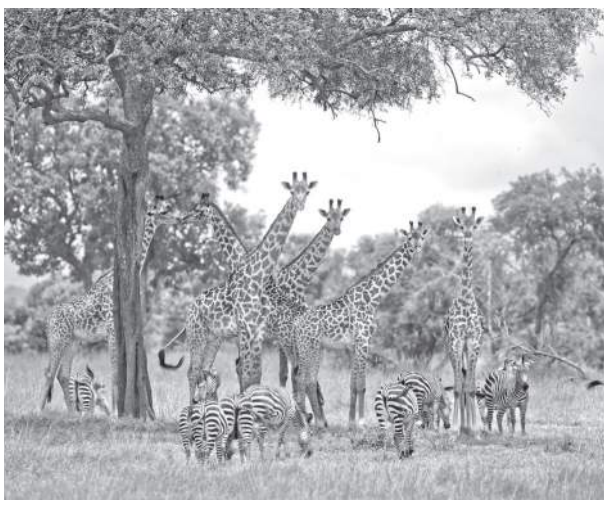
EDITORIAL

Human activities could erase 1 million of our fellow species



It's hard to imagine a more dire assessment of what we humans have done to the world than the 1,500-page United Nations report released Monday in Paris that says, among other things, that our collective activities have put some 1 million plant and animal species at risk of extinction, many within decades. While environmentalists and other scientists have warned for years that humans are uniquely dangerous to the habitability of the planet, the new report takes a deep and broad look at exactly what those impacts have been so far, and what they foretell. It isn't pretty.

The report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services involved the work of more than 450 researchers and relied on 15,000 scientific and government reports; it took three years to complete. It's an astounding accounting of what we have wrought, warning that extinction rates are accelerating rapidly and making clear that without fundamental changes to how we live and organize human societies, the massive decline in biodiversity will endanger humankind as well, because our fate is so deeply interwoven with that of other species.

"The overwhelming evidence ... presents an ominous picture," said Robert Watson, chair of the U.N. body that presented the report. "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."

The rate of global change in nature during the past 50 years, the report says, "is unprecedented in human history." Not coincidentally, the world population has increased from 3.7 billion to 7.6 billion since 1970.

Despite the dire risk from our burning of fossil fuels, it seems that climate change is only the third biggest threat to existence of global species, at least for the moment. At

See HUMAN on Next Page

MICHAEL COHEN STARTED HIS PRISON SENTENCE.
NO PROBLEM, I'VE GOT A NEW FIXER.
BARR
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH

Immunization complacency threatens to undo progress

By ALLYSON BEAR and WILLIAM MOSS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The year is 1952, and hysteria is sweeping across the United States. What is everyone afraid of? Polio.

That year, the disease, which targets children, sickened nearly 58,000 Americans, killed more than 3,000 and left more than 20,000 with mild to disabling paralysis. That summer, at the height of the epidemic, public pools were closed, movie theaters were shuttered and infected children were placed under quarantine—involuntarily, if necessary.

A decade later, the average number of polio cases in this country dropped to about 900 per year. In another decade, polio was eliminated from the United States. What caused polio to vanish? Vaccination. Globally, cases of polio have been reduced by 99 percent, thanks to the polio vaccine.

Immunization is a medical miracle that is key to the steady progress in fighting the world's communicable diseases. Each year immunizations prevent more than 2.5 million deaths just through vaccination against four diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP) and measles.

But complacency is a danger, as we are seeing here in the United States with the spike in measles, largely due to the decision of parents not to vaccinate their children. The progress we've made can always be lost, and the World Health Organization notes that there are still 20 million unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children in the world today.

The benefits of immunization are multifaceted. On the individual level, they improve general health by preventing disease. But they also contribute to children's overall development by avoiding illnesses that would impair cognitive ability and physical strength and would keep them from attending school for long stretches. On a community level, preventing disease avoids lost productivity, both for the patient and the caregiver.

In addition, immunization provides an opportunity for children and their families to avail themselves of primary health services several times during a child's first years of life. Immunization outreach efforts provide health professionals with opportunities to reach communities with other services, including malaria prevention, prenatal and neonatal health care, and sexual and reproductive health education, among others.

Immunization programs also bring benefits to a community's health system. Health workers receive training that stays with the community. And because some vaccines must be kept below a certain temperature to stay effective, developing the infrastructure and logistics to ensure cold storage improves the health system in ways that have wider benefits.

Administering a national immunization program in the developing world provides some significant challenges, which makes the progress achieved all the more astounding. Many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in developing countries live in rural areas, requiring long journeys from urban areas over poor or nonexistent roads. In many of these isolated areas, there are few or no hospitals, let alone health clinics and health care workers to administer vaccines. Resources are needed to build or strengthen the health care system to reach these communities.

Armed conflict is another barrier to immunization. Wars and civil unrest present dangerous conditions for health care workers and the people they are trying to serve. And conflict is driving people to leave their homes and communities in one of the highest levels of forced migration ever recorded, making consistent health care delivery extremely difficult.

A second case of measles confirmed in Maryland as the number of cases nationally grows

Despite these challenges, the goal of drastically reducing or eliminating some of the world's most deadly diseases is a possibility. According to recent WHO data, about 85 percent of infants worldwide had received the required three doses—known as the DTP3—of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, and 123 countries had reached at least 90 percent coverage with the DTP3 vaccine.

Progress has also been encouraging vaccination against measles, a potentially fatal disease whose crippling effects have faded from memory in the U.S. Worldwide, 85 percent of children had received one dose of measles vaccine by their second birthday, and 67 percent of children received two doses.

See IMMUNIZATION on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Parenting a child again is a challenge, a joy and a lesson about who comes first

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

■■■

It's not very often that you get a chance to relive something as profound as parenting a young child, but quite out of the blue four months ago, a little girl I love came to live with me.

She is a close relative, and the circumstances that brought her to me are the usual combination of family difficulties and dysfunction.

It has been years since I've shared my home with anyone, so becoming the equivalent of a single mother late in life has put to the test all the good things I believe about myself. For example, I like to think of myself as patient, loving, gracious and kind.

Turns out, I can also be quite the wicked witch.

"I really don't like you sometimes," she announced the other day.

"I totally get that," I replied.

No point in pretending everything is perfect.

But sometimes, everything really is.

She carpets the house with mash notes to me: "I love you, Auntie." "I love you so, so, so much." "You are the best."

The needs of children are all encompassing, something that is too easy to forget after they sprout wings and fly away. My daughter is a young adult; my stepchildren are middle-aged, and I have forgotten so much.

But the little ones—they are the suns of their own solar systems, and the planets whose gravitational pull ceaselessly drags us to them. Our needs and desires must come second to theirs. Remembering this has been my greatest challenge; it's not about me anymore.

When we are irritable and rushing, children need long hugs and kisses.

When we want to curl up with a book, they need to be wrapped in towels and held close after a bath.

When all we want to do is flop on the couch and watch "Game of Thrones," they need stories and back rubs.

I so look forward to her bedtime.

Sometimes, the two of us have perfect days and calm, lovely evenings.

Sometimes, we have days full of meltdowns and tears (mostly hers) and difficult bedtime conversations.

But mostly, with the help of our family and extraordinary friends, we are doing surprisingly well. Together, we have built a very dependable little village, and it is a good one.

Two weeks ago, at breakfast, she looked at me, cracked a giant smile and said, "You know what, Auntie? We make a pretty good team."

Then she high-fived me.

I walked into my bathroom and wept.

::

One of the beautiful things about living alone is that you are never beholden to anyone else's whims or needs. Your time is your own. Routines be damned.

Children, on the other hand, crave the comfort of unwavering routines.

It took me too long to relearn this. I would start cooking dinner too late, or run out of milk, or forget to buy the only salad dressing she will eat.

I am happy to report that she now has me trained.

After school, there is homework, followed by dinner, followed by a debate over whether dessert is appropriate. Then comes bath time, during which she gives her finest singing performances. We read "Charlotte's Web," "Dog Man" or "Amelia Bedelia."

There is a mandatory 10-minute back rub, always to the strains of the "Govi" guitar channel on Pandora, a couple of bear hugs, and several smoochy kisses.

And then, without fail, she extracts the same promise from me: "Check on me in five minutes."

Of course, I do.

"Game of Thrones" can wait.

■■■

Over spring break, we decide to take a road trip. Scratch that. I decide.

The little girl has not traveled much, and it seems like a great idea to pack up the car and drive to San Francisco, where we will stay a couple of days with her cousins before spending a night in Carmel with friends, then meander home down Highway 1.

"We're going to spend how many hours in the car?" she asks, incredulous. "Why can't we take an airplane?"

On the first morning of our drive, after two bathroom stops, three "I'm hungrys" and four "I'm boreds," I am asking myself the same question.

When I am forced to stop for a third bathroom visit in 150 miles, part of me wants to scream. I don't. I silently recite my new motto: "Love and patience. Love and patience. Love and patience."

We listen to "The Tales of Peter Rabbit" until she gets tired of his antics. I am just getting into the audio version of "Harry Potter" when I look in the rearview mirror and see she has fallen asleep—probably out of boredom. Who could be bored by the boy wizard and those awful Dursleys? Feeling slightly defeated, I turn it off.

When she wakes up, we put on music. Her music, of course. An endless repetition of the same 10 songs on her favorite Pandora station, kids' movie soundtracks. She has a fabulous voice. Together, we belt out the songs from "Moana." "Beauty and the Beast." "Trolls." "Sing."

A week or so earlier, I had made the mistake of showing her the video for Ariana Grande's hit, "thank u, next." Now, she is obsessed and wants to hear the song all the time. I am mortified because I have not been able to figure out how to find the non-explicit version. Each time Ariana sings the f-word (which is a lot), I scream "Beep!"

In an effort to expand her musical horizons, I try the Beatles and hold my breath. "I've heard of them," she tells me. When "Imagine" starts playing, she perks up: "The Beatles wrote that?"

Every once in a while, after her 10-song cycle has repeated a few times, she takes pity on me: "It's OK if you want to listen to news for a few minutes, Auntie."

I die of gratitude a little, put on the news, hear the beginning of a story about, say, mass bombings in Sri Lanka, and decide she doesn't need to hear that noise. We turn the music right back on. It's almost like she planned it that way. I sometimes feel like a very irritable prisoner, or as if my life has been commandeered by a very small dictator.

During our first visit to the pediatrician, the doctor told us that children should ride in the back seat until age 21. She was joking, of course, but we took her point. My niece only ever rides in the back seat.

But in truth, she is driving this family now.

IMMUNIZATION

From Page 10

But now is not the time to revel in what we have achieved. We must redouble our efforts, now that the goal of eradication of some of the most lethal and crippling diseases—unthinkable in the recent past—is in sight.

Allyson Bear is the vice president for health programs at IMA World Health and Lutheran World Relief and William Moss is executive director of the International Vaccine Access Center at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

HUMAN

From Page 10

the top of the list is land use, including development, logging, hunting, mining and harvesting, and man's impact on the oceans from pollution and overfishing.

Three-quarters of the earth's surface bears the scars of human presence, as does two-thirds of the marine environment, the report says. Urbanized areas have doubled since 1990 and pollution from plastics has increased tenfold. Over-hunting and overfishing have undercut the natural diversity crucial to sustainability.

Some scientists argue that the global ecosystem is undergoing a "sixth extinction," much like what happened to the dinosaurs and other lifeforms during five previous global catastrophes. But this is the first such crisis in which the blame does not fall on a massive asteroid strike or pervasive volcanic activity but on the behavior of a single species: us.

The message is clear: Unless the world drastically reorders its priorities and alters its policies, the despoliation of nature will continue.

So what is to be done? A lot of hard work. The report recommends a wide range of actions, including less intrusive and lower-impact land-use policies and integration of agriculture with development, stronger focus on conservation and retention of ecological diversity, localization (and "improved distribution") of agricultural food chains, stronger marine protections and use policies, and in urban areas a better focus on sustainable development in making planning decisions.

Of course, those steps require political will, and if the decades-long fight to counter the worst effects of climate change from global warming is any indicator, we may be in trouble. The issue is global, and correcting the course of human behavior takes leadership and international cooperation.

In the U.S., we're saddled with a presidential administration that seeks to increase production of fossil fuels rather than reduce it, and to roll back environmental regulations. Republicans in Congress also have targeted the Endangered Species Act, apparently believing that the need to protect threatened species is less important than economic development and giving industries free rein to exploit natural resources.

Fortunately, the United States was among the more than 130 nations that approved the summary of the report's findings, signaling at some level a recognition by this administration that the natural world is paying a deep and escalating price for human behavior. We hope this report, and a global consensus on the dangers we face from climate change and a variety of other behaviors, will lead to smarter, less damaging policies. This isn't a matter of balancing the survival of one species or another against the human need for food, water and shelter. This report warns in no uncertain terms that we face an existential threat of our own making. It's humankind's to fix, and the urgency of doing so can't be overstated.

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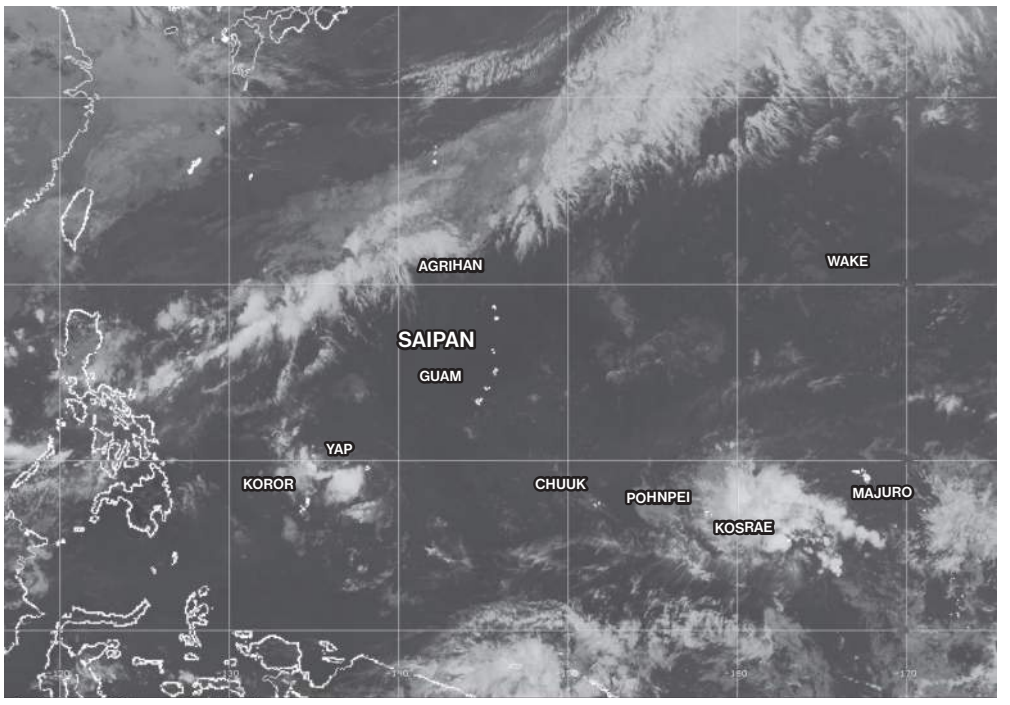
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:52 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and gentle to moderate winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. A weak disturbance is centered to the east of Kayangel with a second disturbance centered south of Kosrae.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	68° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 57°
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 70°
London	Rain	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	65° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
New York	Cloudy	56° / 51°
Osaka	Cloudy	81° / 61°
Paris	Showers	61° / 46°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Rome	Showers	70° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 66°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 52°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Washington, DC	Showers	71° / 64°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:28 AM	LOW TIDE	1.20
08:13 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
12:24 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.35
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:21 AM	10:42 PM	-
Friday	10:20 AM	11:38 PM	-
Saturday	11:20 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:32 AM	12:20 PM
Monday	-	1:23 AM	1:19 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Business

China's investment in US drops amid growing mistrust

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chinese direct investment in the United States dropped 83% last year, pushed down by growing mistrust between the world's two biggest economies.

In a report out Wednesday, the Rhodium Group research firm said that China sank $5 billion last year into direct investments in America, down from $29 billion in 2017 and a record $46 billion in 2016. Direct investments include things like putting up factories, not financial investments like buying stocks.

The numbers fell partly because Beijing sought to rein in deeply indebted investors and partly because the U.S. regulators have stepped up scrutiny of Chinese investments.

Rhodium estimates that China dropped deals worth $2.5 billion last year because they wouldn't pass muster with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which reviews foreign investments with national security implications. Chinese investment in the U.S. information and communications technology industry plunged to $200 million last year from $2.5 billion in 2017.

U.S. direct investment in China, meanwhile, dipped to $13 billion from $14 billion in 2017. U.S. investment in the Chinese information and technology industry dropped to $2.1 billion last year from $4.1 billion in 2017 and $4.3 billion in 2016.

U.S.-China trade relations have deteriorated since President Donald Trump took office.

The U.S. and China have slapped tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's products in a dispute over Beijing's aggressive drive to challenge American technological dominance. Congress last year passed a law making it harder for the Chinese to invest in U.S. companies and to buy cutting-edge technology. The U.S. is also putting restrictions on sensitive tech exports.

Google promises better privacy tools, smarter AI assistant

A group of attendees take photos while waiting in line for the keynote address of the Google I/O conference in Mountain View, Calif., Tuesday, May 7, 2019. AP

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google announced new privacy tools Tuesday intended to give people more control over how they're being tracked on the go or in their own home, part of a broader effort by big tech companies to counter increasing scrutiny of their data collection practices.

The company also announced updates for its artificially intelligent voice assistant as well as a cheaper Pixel phone and a rebranding of his smart-home products.

CEO Sundar Pichai kicked off the company's annual developer conference by noting that the company wants to do more to stay ahead of "constantly evolving user expectations" on privacy.

That focus echoed throughout the day, with the company demonstrating how many of its artificial intelligence capabilities—including some facial recognition and voice searches—are beginning to be processed on devices, rather than by constantly sending information to company servers.

Some critics, however, say Google's privacy updates sidestep more substantial changes that could threaten its ad-driven business model.

"They're sort of marginal improvements," said Jeremy Tillman, president of Ghostery, which provides ad-blocking and anti-tracking software. "They are not bad, but they almost seem like they're designed to give the company a better messaging push instead of making wholesale improvements to user privacy."

Newspaper: Trump lost more than $1 billion from 1985 to 1994

WASHINGTON (AP)—The New York Times reported Tuesday that Donald Trump's businesses lost more than $1 billion from 1985 to 1994, based on tax information the newspaper acquired.

The Times said it has acquired printouts from the future president's official IRS tax transcripts, including figures from his federal tax form.

The newspaper said Trump reported business losses of $46.1 million in 1985, and a total of $1.17 billion in losses for the 10-year period.

After comparing Trump's information with that of other "high-income earners," the Times concluded that Trump "appears to have lost more money than nearly any other individual American taxpayer." Because of his business losses, the newspaper reported, Trump did not pay income taxes for eight of the 10 years.

The House Ways and Means Committee has asked the IRS to provide Trump's personal and business returns for 2013 through 2018. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Monday refused to do so, saying the panel's request "lacks a legitimate legislative purpose."

Mnuchin's move, which had been expected, is likely to set a legal battle into motion. The chief options available to Democrats are to subpoena the IRS for the returns or to file a lawsuit.

Trump is the first president since Watergate to decline to make his tax returns public.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

A 3rd parent pleads guilty in college admissions scheme

BOSTON (AP)—A California executive who pleaded guilty to charges that he paid $400,000 in bribes to get his son into Georgetown University has been fired. Stephen Semprevivo pleaded guilty Tuesday in Boston federal court. He is the third parent to plead guilty in the vast college admissions bribery scheme. Authorities say Semprevivo gave $400,000 to an admissions consultant who paid off then-Georgetown tennis coach Gordon Ernst for pretending Semprevivo's son was a team recruit. Semprevivo's attorney, Steven Boozang, declined to comment. Ernst has pleaded not guilty to accepting $2.7 million in bribes to designate at least 12 applicants as recruits. Semprevivo was an executive at Agoura Hills-based Cydcor, which provides companies with outsourced sales teams. In a Tuesday statement, Cydcor said Semprevivo's charges "do not live up to our standards."

Google spinoff, Lyft team up to offer self-driving car rides

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google's self-driving car spinoff Waymo is teaming up with Lyft in Arizona to attempt to lure passengers away from ride-hailing market leader Uber. The alliance announced Tuesday will allow anyone with the Lyft app in the Phoenix area to summon one of the 10 self-driving Waymo cars that will join the ride-hailing service by end of September. Waymo's robotic vehicles will still have a human behind the wheel to take control in case something goes awry with the technology. But their use in Lyft's service could make more people feel comfortable about riding in self-driving cars. Both Lyft and Uber consider self-driving cars to be one of the keys to turning a profit, something neither company has done so far. Meanwhile, Waymo has been slowly expanding its own ride-hailing service in the Phoenix area that so far has been confined to passengers who previously participated in free tests of its self-driving technology. "We're committed to continuously improving our customer experience, and our partnership with Lyft will also give our teams the opportunity to collect valuable feedback," Waymo CEO John Krafcik wrote in a blog post.

Amazon opens first Go store that accepts cash

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon launched its high-tech Go convenience store a year ago, where shoppers can pull items off the shelf and walk out. Now it's adding a decidedly low-tech feature: accepting cash. Its new store that opened in New York City Tuesday is the first Amazon Go store to do so. At its other shops, customers can only enter with an app that links to a credit card or an Amazon account. The company, facing a backlash from those who believe cashless stores discriminate against the poor, confirmed last month that it was working on a way to accept dollar bills and coins. In the new store, employees will swipe those who want to pay by cash through the turnstile entrance. After shoppers grab what they want off the shelves, an employee will scan each item with a mobile device, take the cash, give customers their change from a cash drawer and hand them a receipt. Cameron Janes, who oversees Amazon's stores, says the way it accepts cash could change in the future, but declined to give details.

Cash is still king: San Francisco bans credit-only stores

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco officials voted Tuesday to require brick-and-mortar retailers to take cash as payment, joining Philadelphia and New Jersey in banning a growing paperless practice that critics say discriminates against low-income people who may not have access to credit cards. The vote by the Board of Supervisors was unanimous. Supervisor Vallie Brown, who introduced the legislation, said it "will go far in ensuring all San Franciscans have equitable access to the city's economy." Brown said she thought it unfair that someone couldn't buy a sandwich just because they had cash. She said young people, victims of ID theft, immigrants and homeless people are among those who don't have bank accounts or credit cards. In many ways, the legislation was an easy call for San Francisco officials, who strive to make life more equitable in a city with an enormous wealth gap. High-paid tech workers who flocked to San Francisco to work for Facebook, Google, Uber and Airbnb may like the ease of paying by credit card, debit card or smartphone. But many low-income people, including more than 4,000 who sleep on San Francisco's streets every night, likely don't have money to sustain bank accounts. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 17 percent of African American households and 15 percent of Latino households had no bank account.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,884.05	25,965.09	7,963.76
-48.42	-473.39	-159.53
-1.65%	-1.79%	-1.96%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.42	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	65.31
British Pound	0.77	Indian Rupee	68.69	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.35	Japanese Yen	7.85	South Korean Won	1,149.22
Chinese Yuan	6.65	Malaysian Ringgit	4.10	Swiss Franc	1.02
Euro	0.89	New Zealand Dollar	1.52	Taiwan Dollar	30.40
		Philippine Peso	51.07	Thailand Baht	31.73

Nation

1 dead, 8 hurt in Colorado school shooting, 2 in custody

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. (AP)—Two students opened fire Tuesday inside a charter school in an affluent suburb of Denver not far from Columbine High School , killing a teenager, wounding eight and spreading minutes of terror before they were taken into custody with no injuries, authorities said.

Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said the pair walked into the STEM School Highlands Ranch and began shooting students in two classrooms. Within minutes, deputies at a nearby sheriff's department substation entered the school and arrested the two suspects after a struggle.

"As officers were arriving at the school, they could still hear gunshots," Douglas County Undersheriff Holly Nicholson-Kluth said.

Authorities did not release the name of the student who died, but said it was an 18-year-old man.

"I have to believe that the quick response of the officers that got inside that school helped save lives," Spurlock said. He did not identify the suspects, but said they were not previously known to authorities. Authorities planned to search their homes and a vehicle at the school, he said.

Officials guide students off a bus and into a recreation center where they were reunited with their parents after a shooting at a suburban Denver middle school Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Highlands Ranch, Colo. AP

The shooting took place exactly a week after a gunman killed two students and wounded four at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. It also comes nearly three weeks after neighboring Littleton marked the grim 20th anniversary of the Columbine school massacre that killed 13 people. The two schools are separated by about 7 miles (11 kilometers) in adjacent communities south of Denver.

"Tragically, this community and those surrounding it know all too well these hateful and horrible acts of violence," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement. President Donald Trump had been briefed on the shooting and was in touch with state and local officials, Deere said.

STEM is a public charter school with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math. It has more than 1,850 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Student Christian Paulson told television station KMGH that he was in study hall when he saw kids running and shouting, "School shooter!"

"And I'm like, what? Is this real or fake? And then I just went after them," Christian Paulson said. "And apparently, this is all real. And I tried to run with my life, but I'm out of breath."

Rocco DeChalk, who lives near the school, told television station KUSA that he saw so many students running past his house that at first he thought it was a gym class. He went outside and saw a teenage boy who had been shot in the back being helped by a teacher and another student.

DNA, family tree help solve 52-year-old Seattle murder case

SEATTLE (AP)—Seattle police said Tuesday they have solved a murder from nearly 52 years ago with the help of DNA and a family tree—a method that has revolutionized cold-case investigations across the U.S. in the past year.

Susan Galvin was a 20-year-old records clerk for the department in July 1967 when she was found raped and strangled in a parking garage elevator at Seattle Center. Dozens of people were questioned, and one potential suspect—a professional clown who had been seen with her a few days earlier, and who quit his job just a few days later—was never charged for lack of evidence. The clown, located in Utah in 2016, was finally cleared by a DNA test.

Last summer, Seattle police provided the killer's DNA to Parabon NanoLabs in Reston, Virginia. CeCe Moore, a Parabon genealogist who is known for her work on the public television series "Finding Your Roots," used the public genealogy database GEDmatch to create a family tree for the killer and ultimately identified a potential suspect as Frank Wypych, a married Seattle man and former soldier who died of complications from diabetes in 1987.

Seattle police exhumed his remains from a cemetery earlier this year to collect DNA and confirmed it matched that extracted from Galvin's clothing in 2002. Investigators are now looking into whether he may have killed anyone else while stationed in New York, Alaska and Germany while in the Army.

"It's the oldest case where genetic genealogy has helped to identify the suspect," Moore said Tuesday. "It's amazing the DNA was still viable. The original investigators who collected the crime scene evidence did such a great job, long before they could even have imagined what could be done with DNA."

Public genealogy databases, which contain information from people who have obtained their DNA profiles from companies like 23andMe and Ancestry.com, have become a powerful police tool in the past year, since investigators in California revealed that they used the method to identify and arrest Golden State Killer suspect Joseph DeAngelo. DeAngelo, a former police officer, is accused of having murdered at least a dozen people and raped 50 in the 1970s and '80s.

Witness testifies on secret society's 'sex slave' initiation

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman testified on Tuesday that shortly after being recruited for a secret "master-slave" society within an upstate New York self-help group she got a disturbing message from her handler: It was her turn to "seduce" the group's leader, Keith Raniere.

The witness at Raniere's trial at federal court in Manhattan said she thought to herself, "Oh God. This is not what I want to do. . What does this even mean?"

The 32-year-old woman from England testified in federal court in Manhattan only using her first name—Sylvie—to protect her privacy. She was to return to the stand Wednesday as the first of several women expected to testify about the dark underbelly of NXIVM, a group that's been compared to a cult.

Raniere, 58, has pleaded not guilty to sex-trafficking and other charges. He claims his encounters with the alleged victims were consensual.

Five of Raniere's co-defendants, including TV actress Allison Mack, have pleaded guilty. Mack is a possible government witness at a trial expected to last six weeks.

Testimony from the first witness came after opening statements in which Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Hajjar described Raniere as a master manipulator who used "shame and humiliation" to force women to have sex with him while he was a spiritual leader known as "Vanguard." The prosecutor alleged that Raniere really was a "con man" and "predator" whose offenses included having sex with a 15-year-old girl when he was 45 and having some female followers branded with his initials.

"The defendant pretended to be a guru," Hajjar said, "but he was a criminal."

Defense attorney Marc Agnifilo conceded the evidence, including that some slaves had abortions, could be offensive. But he insisted his client's intent was to help his devotees by teaching them lessons about achieving inner strength through vulnerability.

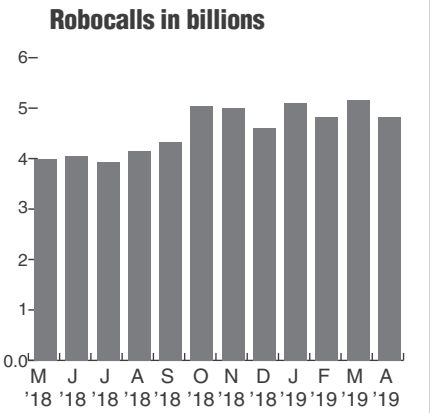
Robocalls at all-time high

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there is a significant increase in the number of illegal robocalls because internet-powered phone systems have made it cheap and easy for scammers to make illegal calls from anywhere in the world, and to hide from law enforcement by displaying fake caller ID information.

4.9
Billion robocalls in April

14.9
Avg. calls per person

164
Million Per day



Top 10 affected areas nationwide in April 2019

City	State	Est. in millions
Atlanta	GA	190,934,300
Dallas	TX	180,881,700
New York	NY	154,775,100
Chicago	IL	151,566,500
Houston	TX	149,738,300
Los Angeles	CA	149,428,200
Baltimore	MD	115,460,500
Phoenix	AZ	89,681,800
San Francisco Bay Area	CA	89,577,900
Newark	NJ	88,421,100

Top 10 affected area codes nationwide in April 2018

Area Code	City	State	Est. in millions
404	Atlanta	GA	81,104,400
214	Dallas	TX	71,698,900
832	Houston	TX	70,229,700
678	Atlanta	GA	60,940,400
954	Fort Lauderdale	FL	48,646,100
917	New York	NY	48,088,600
310	Los Angeles	CA	46,410,600
210	San Antonio	TX	45,666,000
817	Dallas	TX	44,542,800
901	Memphis	TN	44,432,500

What should you do if you get a robocall?

In 2018, the FTC had brought more than a hundred lawsuits against over 600 companies and individuals responsible for billions of illegal robocalls and other do-not-call violations. Below are some tips if you get a robocall.

- **Hang up the phone. Don't press 1 to speak to a live operator and don't press any other number to get your number off the list. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.**
- **Consider contacting your phone provider and asking them to block the number, and whether they charge for that service. Remember that telemarketers change caller ID information easily and often, so it might not be worth paying a fee to block a number that will change.**
- **Report your experience to the FTC online at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222.**

Source: Federal Trade Commission, robocallindex.com
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Asia

Car hits 13 children, 4 seriously injured, in western Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A car has slammed into a group of 16 mostly kindergarten children who were walking to school along a sidewalk in the lakeside city of Otsu in western Japan, leaving four seriously injured.

Shiga prefectural police say the accident occurred Wednesday morning after the compact car bumped into another passenger car at an intersection and veered off to the sidewalk. The 13 children were escorted by three teachers.

Police say the four children were unconscious, while the conditions of others in the group were not immediately known.

Kyodo News agency says police arrested the two drivers, ages 62 and 52, on suspicion of negligence.

In Japan children usually walk to school in groups.

Bomb targeting Pakistani police at shrine kills 4 in Lahore

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A powerful bomb exploded near security forces guarding a famous Sufi shrine in the eastern city of Lahore on Wednesday, killing at least four people and wounding 20 others, police said.

City police chief Ghazanfar Ali said police officers were the apparent target of bombing outside the shrine which is known as Data Darbar, and where a famous Sufi saint Ali Hajveri is buried. Hundreds of pilgrims were inside and outside the shrine when the blast took place, he said.

TV footage showed a badly damaged police vehicle that authorities said was the target.

"It seems police officers who were doing their routine duty outside the Data Darbar shrine were the target," Ali said.

He said the death toll could rise as some of the victims of the bombing are in critical condition.

Pakistanis in large numbers visit the shrine, where a pair of suicide attacks in 2010 killed and wounded dozens of people.

Lahore is the capital of eastern Punjab province, which has witnessed similar attacks in recent years.

Pakistani Christian girls trafficked to China as brides

AP
In this April 14, 2019 photo, Mahek Liaqat, who married a Chinese national, shows her marriage certificate in Gujranwala, Pakistan.

GUJRANWALA, Pakistan (AP)—Hundreds young women from Pakistan's small Christian minority have been trafficked to China as brides in recent months as their impoverished community is targeted in an aggressive new marriage market, activists and officials say.

Brokers offer desperately poor parents thousands of dollars to give girls in marriage to Chinese men, even cruising outside churches for potential brides. They are helped by Christian pastors paid to preach to their congregations with promises of wealth in exchange for their daughters.

Once in China, the girls—most often married against their will—can find themselves isolated in rural regions, vulnerable to abuse, unable to communicate and reliant on a translation app even for a glass of water. Touted as wealthy Christian converts, the grooms often turn out to be neither, according to accounts from brides, their parents, an activist, pastors and government officials, speaking to The Associated Press.

"This is human smuggling," said Ijaz Alam Augustine, the human rights and minorities minister in Pakistan's Punjab province, in an interview with the AP. "Greed is really responsible for these marriages ... I have met with some of these girls and they are very poor."

The Associated Press interviewed more than a dozen Christian Pakistani brides and would-be brides who fled before exchanging vows. All had similar accounts of a process involving brokers and members of the clergy.

"It is all fraud and cheating. All the promises they make are fake," said Muqadas Ashraf, who was 16 when her parents married her off to a Chinese man last year. Less than five months later, she returned to Pakistan, pregnant and seeking a divorce.

In China, demand for foreign brides has mounted, a legacy of the one-child policy that skewed the country's gender balance toward males. Brides initially came largely from Vietnam, Laos and North Korea. Now men are looking further afield, said Mimi Vu, director of advocacy at Pacific Links, which helps trafficked Vietnamese women.

"It's purely supply and demand," she said. "It used to be, 'Is she light-skinned?' Now it's like, 'Is she female?'"

Pakistan seems to have come onto marriage brokers' radar late last year.

Saleem Iqbal, a Christian activist, said he first began to see significant numbers of marriages to Chinese men in October. Since then, an estimated 750 to 1,000 girls have been married off, he said.

Pakistan's small Christian community is particularly vulnerable. It is among the country's poorest and has little political or social support, numbering some 2.5 million in Pakistan's overwhelmingly Muslim population of 200 million.

Among all faiths in Pakistan, parents often decide a daughter's marriage partner. The deeply patriarchal society often sees girls as a burden because the bride's family must pay a dowry and the cost of the wedding.

By contrast, potential Chinese grooms offer parents money and pay all wedding expenses.

Some of the grooms are from among the tens of thousands of Chinese in Pakistan working on infrastructure projects under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. Other grooms search directly from China through networks. They present themselves as Christian converts, but pastors complicit in the deals don't ask for any documentation.

They pay on average $3,500 to $5,000, including payments to parents, pastors and a broker, said Iqbal.

Muqadas' mother Nasreen said she was promised about $5,000, including wedding costs. "But I have not seen anything yet," she said.

"I really believed I was giving her a chance at a better life and also a better life for us," Nasreen said. When her daughter became increasingly miserable in China, Nasreen contacted the husband and demanded her daughter be sent home.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippines orders Filipinos to leave Libyan capital

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials said Wednesday that they have issued a mandatory evacuation order for more than 1,000 Filipinos in the Libyan capital amid escalating fighting, rocket fire and airstrikes. The government issued the order after the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli warned that it "could no longer guarantee the safety and security of Filipinos who chose to remain despite repeated appeals for them to go home," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Emmanuel Fernandez said. Philippine Foreign Secretary Teddy Locsin Jr. said that despite the order, officials cannot force Filipino workers and their dependents to leave. Nevertheless, he appealed to Filipinos in the Libyan capital and outlying regions "to seriously consider repatriation before the situation escalates further." Locsin "requested the help of families in the Philippines in convincing their loved ones in Tripoli to accept the repatriation offer before it's too late," the department said in a statement issued in Manila. The evacuation order applies to Filipino workers and their dependents in Tripoli and areas within a 100-kilometer (62-mile) radius of the capital, because of fighting between rival militias for control of the North African nation's capital.

Australian judge jails extremist for Philippines boat plot

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The ringleader of a plot to take six extremists from Australia in a motor boat to the southern Philippines to overthrow the provincial government was sentenced by an Australian judge on Friday to seven years in prison. Victoria state Supreme Court Justice Michael Croucher ordered Islamic State group sympathizer and firebrand preacher Robert "Musa" Cerantonio to serve at least five years and three months in prison before becoming eligible for parole. The 34-year-old had pleaded guilty to engaging in conduct in preparation for hostile activities in a foreign country. Cerantonio and five other men had plotted in 2016 to take a 7-meter (23-foot) half-cabin fiberglass power boat off the northeast Queensland coast to encourage others to overthrow the government in the southern Philippines and install Sharia Law. None of them could travel the 3,500 kilometers (2,200 miles) to the Philippines by conventional means because their Australian passports had been canceled due to concerns they would become foreign fighters.

Fire hits 21-story Manila building; 1 dead and 5 injured

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fire raged through the top floors of a 21-story residential building in the Philippine capital on Monday in the middle of a scorching summer, killing an elderly woman and injuring five other people, officials said. Mayor Edwin Olivarez said by telephone that more than 100 firetrucks battled the blaze at the Pacific Coast Plaza condominium in Paranaque city, where one lane of a coastal road along Manila Bay was closed due to falling debris. An elderly woman was found dead in the upper floors and five other people were injured, fire officials said. A firefighter was given first aid due to fatigue. Investigators will inspect the floors gutted by the fire, which was put under control about three hours after it started. The fire apparently started in or near the garbage chute that runs from the top to the ground floor, Olivarez said. At the height of the fire, dark smoke billowed from the mid-section of the top five floors, leaving a black stain on the white facade of the building, which Olivarez said was built more than two decades ago. Many Chinese citizens have moved into the condominium in recent years, he said.

World

Flooding in Paraguay has sent 40,000 people to higher ground

AP
The Santa Ana neighborhood is flooded in Asuncion, Paraguay, Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Officials say they've had to evacuate some 40,000 people due to unusually heavy rains since March.

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—Some 40,000 Paraguayans have been evacuated in recent weeks because of flooding from heavy rains across the South American nation, authorities said Tuesday.

National emergency official Joaquín Roa said more than 10,000 of the evacuees live in the capital of Asuncion. They were moved to higher ground at military bases, public plazas and roadsides.

The other evacuees are scattered across the country along the rain-swollen Paraguay River. Its normal stage is 4 meters (13.10 feet), but it has reached 6.92 meters (22.7 feet) in the capital due to unusually heavy rains since March.

Carlos Jiménez, an official with the Bajo Chaco region ranchers association, said about 480,000 head of livestock are either standing in water or isolated on small spots of high ground.

WORLD BRIEFS

Report: Iran prepares to withdraw from parts of nuclear deal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Wednesday will announce it is partially withdrawing from the nuclear deal it struck with world powers, its state-run news agency reported, a year to the day that President Donald Trump pulled America from the accord. The terms of the withdrawal remain unclear, though the IRNA news agency said President Hassan Rouhani will explain Iran's decision in letters to leaders of Britain, France and Germany that will be handed to ambassadors in Tehran. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif separately will write to the European Union, the agency said. The semi-official ISNA news agency reported late Tuesday that Zarif had left for Moscow to meet with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to discuss bilateral and international issues, without elaborating. Details of the letters, all to signers of the 2015 accord, will not be publicly disclosed, it said. The letters will come as officials in the Islamic Republic previously warned that Iran might increase its uranium enrichment, potentially pulling away from a deal it has sought to salvage for months.

Gunman releases hostages in southern France

PARIS (AP)—A 17-year-old gunman took four hostages in a convenience store on the outskirts of the southern French city of Toulouse for more than four hours before releasing them Tuesday, police said. Authorities weren't certain of what the hostage taker was demanding. No injuries were reported. The youth seized the hostages at 4:20 p.m. (1420 GMT) in the town of Blagnac, near Toulouse airport, according to a national police spokeswoman. The suspect was not known to police, the spokeswoman said, declining to divulge details of his identity while the standoff was still underway. The teen later released all four hostages but remained inside the store, surrounded by police, another police official said.

Erdogan defends Istanbul vote redo, critics see power grab

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisted Tuesday that rerunning the Istanbul mayoral vote that was won by the opposition will only strengthen democracy, while critics called the decision an "outrageous" move to eliminate dissent against his government. Ruling in favor of Erdogan's governing party, Turkey's top electoral body on Monday annulled the results of the March 31 vote in Istanbul, which opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu narrowly won, and scheduled a re-run for June 23. "The will of the people has been trampled on," said Meral Aksener, leader of a nationalist party in Turkey that had backed Imamoglu. The loss of Istanbul—and the capital of Ankara—in Turkey's local elections were sharp blows to Erdogan and his conservative, Islamic-based Justice and Development Party, or AKP.

Pope: Commission on female deacons disagrees on ordination

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP)—Pope Francis said Tuesday that an international commission of scholars has failed to reach a definitive conclusion about whether women were ordained as deacons in the early Christian church in the same way men were. Francis told reporters returning home from the Balkans that the commission found evidence that female deacons performed functions that included immersion baptisms for women. But he said there was no agreement on whether these women underwent the same sacramental ordination as male deacons. "It's fundamental that there is no certainty that there was an ordination with the same formula, with the same goal, as the male ordination," Francis said. The result will likely be a blow to proponents of ordaining female deacons today, as well as the umbrella association of religious sisters which had asked Francis to create a commission to study the issue in 2016.

Cyprus' new police chief sorry in mishandling of serial killer case

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus' new police chief on Tuesday apologized over the handling of the country's serial killer case amid accusations of negligent police work that may have allowed the suspect to claim more victims.

Kypros Michaelides offered the apology to the families of seven foreign women and girls who an army captain has confessed to killing. He said that police had failed to protect the victims, adding that those who failed to properly investigate their disappearances will be held accountable.

"We fully understand the public's justified reaction," Michaelides said at a ceremony marking his appointment.

"I'll do whatever is humanly possible...to restore the ground we lost, to restore the public's trust in the police," Michaelides said, adding that the force operates without prejudice, racism or sexism.

Last week, President Nicos Anastasiades fired Michaelides' predecessor while the justice minister resigned amid strong criticism that police failed to properly investigate initial missing persons' reports that could have tracked down the 35-year-old suspect before he could kill again.

Among the victims were a 36-year-old Romanian woman and her 8-year-old daughter who disappeared in 2016. But police apparently told people who inquired about the whereabouts of the mother and daughter that they had good reason to believe both had absconded to the breakaway, Turkish Cypriot north of the ethnically divided country.

Five of the suspect's victims disappeared after that. The bodies of two Filipino women were discovered by chance last month in an abandoned mineshaft, sparking the investigation.

The suspect told investigators he dumped three of his victims—the Romanian mother and daughter as well as another Filipino woman—in a toxic lake after placing their bodies in suitcases.

Divers have so far recovered two suitcases from the lake, including a small bag that authorities believe contains the remains of the 8-year-old.

The suspect also led police to the decomposed body of a woman believed to be from Nepal down a pit in a military firing range. Authorities are also looking in a reservoir for the body of the 6-year-old daughter of Mary Rose Tiburcio, 38, who was found in the shaft.

Environment

Water sources in 43 states contain potentially unsafe chemical levels

By TARA COPP
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—More than 610 drinking water sources in 43 states contain potentially unsafe levels of chemical compounds that have been linked to birth defects, cancers, infertility and reduced immune responses in children, according to a new database compiled by the Environmental Working Group and Northeastern University.

Using Pentagon data released last year and recently obtained public water utility reports, the researchers now estimate that more than 19 million people are exposed to water contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS.

The new research shows the broad extent of the problem, that the harmful chemical compounds found concentrated in military water sources across the United States have also been reported hundreds more public drinking water systems than was previously known.

"This is a national crisis and it requires a national response," said Bill Walker, vice president of the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit organization focused on health and the environment.

While PFAS are found in everyday items such as Teflon and fast-food wrappers, the chemicals are concentrated in the fire-fighting foam that military bases, ships and commercial airports have used for decades.

Military bases and the communities surrounding them report some of the highest levels of contamination—much higher than the Environmental Protection Agency's 2016 recommendation of a maximum exposure level of 70 parts per trillion.

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in the state of Washington reports some water sources have levels as high as 58,000 parts per trillion and former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base in South Carolina reports some water sources contain as much as 264,000 parts per trillion of the compounds. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in California reports one of the highest levels across the military, at 8 million parts per trillion.

The contamination was not just discovered on military bases. The Pentagon tested off-base wells and public water sources near each facility. In cases where the water source reported PFAS levels higher than 70 parts per trillion, the Pentagon provided filters or alternate drinking water supplies.

Gray whales starving to death in the Pacific, and scientists want to know why

Biologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Southwest Fisheries Service Center, take tissue and skin samples from a decomposing 43-foot grey whale on Lower Trestles beach in San Onofre State Park April 25, 2016. Biologists said the whale has been dead for about four days and shows no signs of external trauma.
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

By LEILA MILLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—From Baja California to Puget Sound, scientists are seeing signs that gray whales are in distress. And they have no idea why.

Thirty-one dead gray whales have been spotted along the West Coast since January, the most for this time of year since 2000, when 86 whales died. Dozens more have shown visible signs of malnourishment, and sightings of mother-calf pairs are down sharply.

The gray whale death toll will probably climb through May as the animals continue their annual migration from their warm breeding lagoons in Mexico to their icy feeding grounds in the Arctic, said Justin Greenman, the assistant coordinator of stranded marine mammal response in California for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Experts said that, with about 27,000 gray whales thriving around the world, this year's deaths probably don't present a serious threat to the species. But the casualties can't be ignored, either.

"It's not like we're ringing the alarm bell that this population is threatened or at risk," said John Calambokidis, a biologist and co-founder of Cascadia Research who tracks gray whales in Washington state. "As a researcher, I feel that you want to at least understand what is going on."

So far, scientists know little more than what they can see. They've documented 21 dead whales that have turned up in Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay and elsewhere on California shores. Most of them had not yet reached adulthood and looked like they might have starved to death.

Frances Gulland, a research associate at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, estimates that gray whale deaths could hit 60 or 70 by the end of the season.

"If this continues at this pace through May, we would be alarmed," she said.

In a typical year, scientists at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito see two or three dead gray whales. So far this year, they've counted seven, according to Dr. Padraig Duignan, the center's chief pathologist.

Duignan performed necropsies on all of them and determined that four had died of malnutrition.

"Their skeleton seems to stick out more and more," he said.

Emaciated whales are also turning up with greater frequency along the West Coast. These whales are more angular in appearance, and have less muscle mass behind their heads.

Great Lakes water levels surge, some record highs predicted

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Water levels are surging in the Great Lakes and likely will set records this summer, forecasters said Monday—a remarkable turnaround from earlier this decade that's bringing welcome relief to shippers and marina owners, but causing flooding and heavy erosion in some areas.

A six-month bulletin from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicted Lake Superior and Lake Erie soon will reach unprecedented high points, as a heavy winter snowpack across the region's northern section melts and mingles with water gushing into the lakes from rivers swollen with spring rainfall.

Levels have been trending upward at varying rates since 2013, when Lakes Huron and Michigan fell to their lowest points and the other Great Lakes were significantly below normal. That was the nadir of a nearly 15-year slump that stranded pleasure boats, forced cargo vessels to lighten loads, dried up wetlands and fueled conspiracy theories that water was somehow being siphoned off to the parched West.

"It's quite the shift," said Keith Kompoltowicz, chief of watershed hydrology with the Corps' district office in Detroit. "Now we're at the other extreme."

Lake Superior, which holds more water than the other four combined and sends them a continuous flow through its southern outlet, is about 15 inches (38.1 centimeters) above its long-term average level for this time of year, and nine inches (22.9 centimeters) higher than a year ago. Lake Erie is 26 inches (66 centimeters) over its long-term average.

Michigan, Huron and Ontario aren't expected to set records but are well above average, Kompoltowicz said.

Great Lakes levels are known to fluctuate over time. But experts said the prolonged drop-off of the past decade and the more recent rise likely result at least in part from a warming climate.

"These events are quite consistent with what scientists have been expecting with long-term climate change patterns," said Drew Gronewold of the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability. "The challenge is that it's very hard to forecast when those extremes are going to occur and when the transition between them might occur."

Kolleen Jones, co-owner of the Betsie Bay Marina in Elberta, Michigan, said the recovery was a blessing. The previous owners were hammered when levels dropped so low that many of the 95 boat slips were unusable.

"We were considering not even buying it," Jones said. "Now, we're working our tails off to raise our docks to get them out of the water."

The low water was costly for ships that haul iron ore, coal and other bulk commodities between Great Lakes ports. Things are much better now, although with water so high, vessels must slow down on rivers and channels to avoid creating wakes that damage shoreline docks, said Glen Nekvasil of the Cleveland-based Lake Carriers' Association.

UN environment agency warns of effects of rising use of sand

GENEVA (AP)—The U.N.'s environment program is warning about the overuse of sand resources, saying a three-fold increase in demand over the last 20 years amid increasing population, urbanization and building work has contributed to beach erosion, flooding and drought.

In a new report launched Tuesday, UNEP urged a rethink about the use of the world's second-most extracted resource, after water, by industry, governments and the public.

UNEP said demand for sand and gravel amounts to 40-50 billion tons every year, and pointed to the need for conservation, recycling and a look for alternatives like sawdust.

Pascal Peduzzi, director of a UNEP program with the University of Geneva, said more thought needs to be taken: "We aren't very smart about how we use sand, because we think: This is just sand."

Life & Style

Q&A: Ryan Reynolds on 'Pikachu' and the future of 'Deadpool'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Reynolds once envisioned himself, best-case scenario, as Wilson on "Home Improvement" or Mr. Furley on "Three's Company."

"When I started in this business, my highest goal was to be the wacky neighbor on a sitcom," Reynolds says. "It took a much different path."

Against his own expectations, Reynolds has emerged as one of Hollywood's top movie stars, thanks in large part to the runaway success of his two "Deadpool" movies, R-rated wise-cracking films that seemed to unlock Reynolds' own powers of motor-mouthed sarcasm.

In "Pokemon Detective Pikachu," in theaters Friday, Reynolds uses his sharp-tongued talents for good—or at least, for a more cuddly, family-friendly movie. Reynolds voices the title character, a Pokemon who helps a 21-year-old man (Justice Smith) search for his missing father, Pikachu's former partner.

In an interview, Reynolds discussed his Pokemon transformation.

Actor Ryan Reynolds, left, is joined by his pregnant wife, actress Blake Lively at the premiere of "Pokemon Detective Pikachu" at Military Island in Times Square on Thursday, May 2, 2019, in New York. AP

AP: You've voiced characters in a number of films, including "The Croods" and "Turbo," but on "Detective Pikachu," you also crafted the character through facial motion capture.

Reynolds: I did about an hour of motion capture and performance capture on "Deadpool 2" as Juggernaut. But this is the first time I've really been in that world in this immersive way where I'm shaping a character's arc from beginning to end with motion capture. You're wearing a tracking suit, head to toe. There are multiple cameras fixed to your head, which is completely insane. I'm sure that in our Instagram world there are people wondering where they can buy that for their personal use.

AP: You must have had considerable free rein considering this was a Pokemon character rather than, say, an ape.

Reynolds: It's a mythical pocket monster. There's no tether to reality whatsoever with this character. It's pretty free rein, which is its own weird burden. Once possibilities become limitless, you can get a little locked up. It took me a couple sessions to realize everything's possible and just to embrace that. It's really just a matter of accessing that 6-year-old part of your brain that's fueled exclusively on imagination, and just let that run wild. I wish I could do every movie like this.

AP: Is there less PG-friendly B-roll of you in that environment?

Reynolds: Dear god, yes. There's probably an entirely different film that they could cut together that wouldn't make the PG cut at all. When you're feeling that kind of freedom, you don't really govern yourself by ratings systems or that sort of thing.

AP: Your career seemed to really come alive when you carved out a path of less traditional leading men.

Reynolds: Some of the stuff that I've done in the past that you would categorize as maybe didn't work were moments where I was stepping into the role of the archetypal leading-man role. It's just not something I've ever been really that great at, to be totally blunt. I have immense respect for those who are great at it. But I also think our idea of a traditional, leading man, archetypal male is changing wildly day to day, over the last five years in particular. And I think that's great. I think that's evolution, to put it in Pikachu terms.

AP: When Disney acquired 20th Century Fox, the culture clash was often represented by drawings of Mickey Mouse and Deadpool together. Do you have any concerns that future "Deadpool" films will be toned down under Disney?

Reynolds: I don't, no. I don't have any reason to be concerned based on everything I've heard Disney say publicly and privately. So at this point, I have nothing to be particularly worried about.

AP: You've become so connected to "Deadpool." Was making "Detective Pikachu" a conscious pivot to something more family-friendly? People are already oozing over the cuteness.

Reynolds: I've never really looked at things from the 30,000-foot view of: How will this shape public perception of me? That stuff honestly makes me nauseous to even think about. Really it just came organically. They had animated a test example of Pikachu and they had obviously tried out a whole bunch of actors' voices to it. And they tried out mine and for whatever reason, it worked, according to them. I think that juxtaposition between his visuals and me being kind of acerbic and grumpy as his voice is a match made in heaven.

AP: You've kind of carried over the tongue-in-cheek marketing of "Deadpool" to "Detective Pikachu." You made a video extolling your immersive, Method-acting to get into character as Pikachu. You seem to enjoy a side of the business that most disdain.

Reynolds: I love marketing. I have a company, Maximum Effort Productions, and that's what we do. We're a film production company but we're also a marketing company. We do the marketing for Aviation Gin, a lot of stuff for "Deadpool," a lot of stuff for "Pikachu" and a few other companies. It's a blast. I think marketing is most interesting when you're acknowledging and playing with the cultural landscape.

AP: Part of that has been an ongoing mock social-media feud with Hugh Jackman. Do you have any message for him?

Reynolds: (Laughs) I'll save my catalog of insults for Hugh Jackman for our next interview.

'Big Bang Theory' tops 'Game of Thrones' in weekly ratings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the ratings battle between titans "The Big Bang Theory" and "Game of Thrones," laughs won out.

CBS' "The Big Bang Theory" was last week's top-rated program, with 12.5 million viewers tuning in to the sitcom in its home stretch. The final episode of its 12-season run will air Thursday, May 16.

HBO's "Game of Thrones," also nearing the end after eight seasons, placed second, according to Nielsen figures released Tuesday.

The fantasy drama drew 11.8 million viewers to the episode that debuted last Sunday, edged out by the sitcom it had bested the week before.

"Game of Thrones," which ends May 19, reached a total 17.2 million viewers with figures for streaming, on-demand and a Sunday rerun included. That's a slight dip from the big battle episode that aired April 28 and drew 17.8 million across HBO's platforms.

Picking up after mom is lifelong family dilemma

DEAR ABBY: My mom has never been what you would call a housekeeper. Dad did all the shopping, cooking and cleaning. As a child, I remember our house always being a mess. Mom worked, and I don't know why she never felt like she needed to clean up after herself. My dad would straighten up after her, and there were often arguments about it.

Fast forward. Dad passed away three years ago, and my mom hasn't changed. She leaves things all over the house like she did before—dishes, bowls, soda cans, shoes. The first year, I would go over and clean only to return a couple of days later and find the place a mess again. She won't let cleaning people in because she "doesn't like the smell of the cleaning products."

I feel like a bad daughter because at this point, I won't go over to her house anymore. I cannot spend time there. If this were new behavior, I would be concerned, but it's been this way as long as I can remember. She seems to not care that the place is a mess all the time. I feel bad for not helping her anymore. My daughter won't visit her either. What do I do?

MIFFED ABOUT THE MESS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR MIFFED: Don't feel guilty. Because your mother is the way she is and always has been like this, take her out or to your home when you want to visit with her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I found out a few years ago that the first love of my life, my college sweetheart, was murdered by her husband in 1999. At the time, I was married. My wife died three years ago, and I now live with a significant other.

I never got closure. Now that I know about my girlfriend's brutal death, I have thought about contacting her family, who live in another state. Would it be all right to do that, or am I just reliving my past and need to move on? I am torn about what to do. What do you suggest?

CONFLICTED IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR CONFLICTED: Write her parents a letter and tell them you only recently heard about your former girlfriend's death. And when you do, express to them that she will always live in your heart, and share a pleasant memory of her with them. I'm sure they will be appreciative.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: It's time someone publicized this. Chewing ice in your tea, coffee or soft drink is as rude as eating your food or cracking your gum with your mouth open.

As I write this, I am sitting in a nice neighborhood coffee shop. The man next to me ordered an iced beverage, which he has been chomping through for the last 10 minutes. This is rude under any conditions, but magnified by the fact that some of us are going over work matters and trying to enjoy a coffee and muffin break. Moreover, it is not good for teeth. Even if the ice crunching habit were benign with regard to health, it's inconsiderate of those in earshot.

BREAKING THE ICE

DEAR BREAKING: Has it occurred to you and your coworkers to move to another table if the crunching annoys you? If it hasn't, I recommend it.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, AT LEAST WE WEREN'T HOME WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO. NO ONE WAS HURT. WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AND OK.
WE LOST A FEW OF OUR NICE THINGS, BUT THINGS DON'T MATTER MUCH REALLY.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW OFTEN WE FORGET THAT.

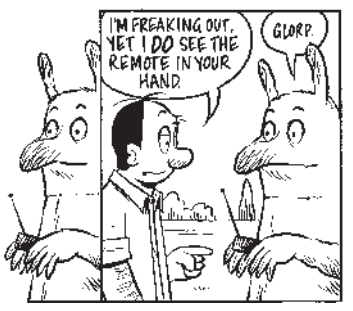
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

PING! PING! PING! PING!
GARFIELD!
WOULD YOU STOP POSTING THOSE PICTURES?!
HEY, THAT LITTER BOX ISN'T GOING TO CLEAN ITSELF, PAL
JIM DAVIS 5-9

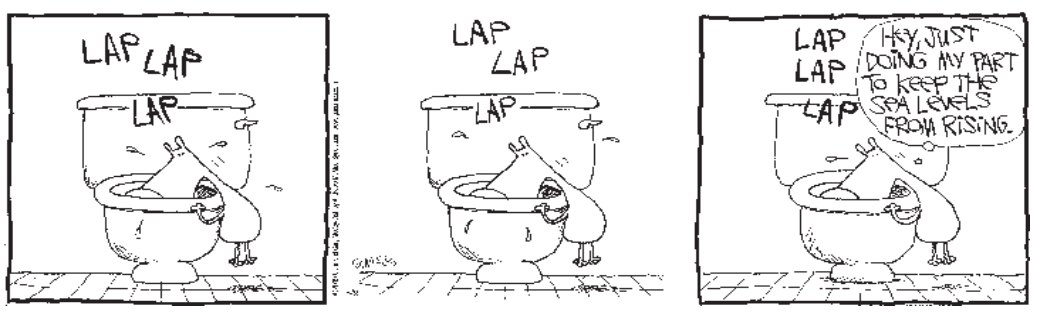
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

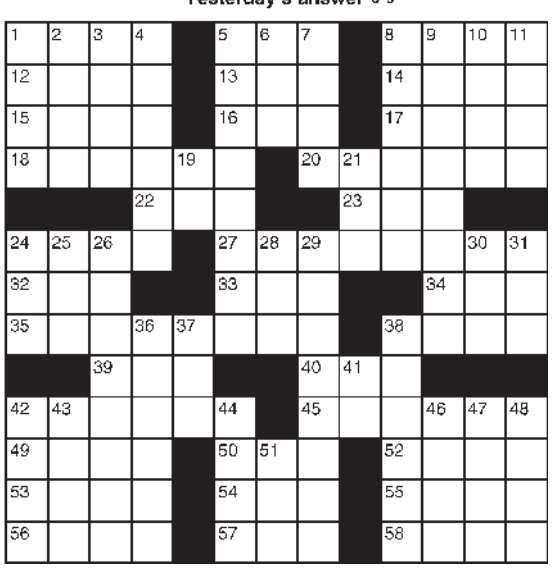
ACROSS
1 Niger neighbor
5 Existed
8 Close
12 Timber wolf
13 Rocker Rose
14 — Christian Andersen
15 Modern taxi rival
16 Museum-funding org.
17 Verdi opera
18 Anne who married Henry VIII
20 Funhouse feature
22 Extinct bird
23 Documentarian Burns
24 Island near Java
27 Gymnast's move
32 Brit. record label
33 Continent north of Afr.
34 Bar cubes
35 Olympic skating gold medalist Tara
38 Grand tale
39 "Today" rival, briefly
40 "Fresh Air" airer
42 Honeydews
45 Jerry of the Grateful Dead
49 Golf bag item
50 Frazier foe
52 "Heavens!"
53 Spanish ayes
54 Charged bit
55 Mature
56 Try out
57 Schlep
58 Get lippy

DOWN
1 Golf bag item
2 Vagrant
3 Genesis shepherd
4 Moolah
5 Hopefuls
6 Chopping tool
7 Bridge coup
8 "Doctor Zhivago" star
9 Tress holder
10 Nullify
11 Despot
19 "Hey!"
21 Annoy
24 — canto
25 Parisian pal
26 Makeup kit item
28 Arctic seabird
29 Shrinking in fear
30 Here, in Dijon
31 Chest muscle
36 "Leave that to me!"
37 Indian bread
38 Goofs
41 Ma's mate
42 Fine spray
43 Canal of song
44 Go yachting
46 — Pet
47 Rapscallions
48 Pro votes
51 Singer Rawls

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	E	E	M		A	D	O		E	B	A	Y	
I	S	L	A		C	O	W		V	A	L	E	
B	A	B	Y	G	A	G	E		I	R	O	N	
S	U	E	D	E			S	H	A	F	T	S	
				A	Y	F	S		U	N	I		
R	U	B	Y		C	I	M	E		G	A	B	
I	S	A		T	A	S	E	S		H	A	I	
P	A	L		O	M	A	R		S	T	A	B	
			L	M	N		E	S	I				
B	E	F	A	I	R			K	C	A	L	A	
E	T	O	N		B	R	A	I	N	F	O	G	
S	T	U	N		I	G	I		E	R	O	O	
T	A	R	A		S	A	M		S	O	N	G	

Yesterday's answer 5-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Yzerman, 54; John Corbett, 58; Billy Joel, 70; Candice Bergen, 73.

Happy Birthday: Connect with your past, and take care of personal baggage. Get rid of whatever holds you back and brings you down. Evaluate your position, reputation and lot in life; do what's best for yourself. The changes you make will encourage you to be the best you can be and to bring out the best in those you love. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 25, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A journey will lead to information. Whether you take a trip physically, spiritually or intellectually, what you gain will help you make a positive move in a direction that will help you achieve a life goal. Romance and physical activities are featured. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An opportunity to invest, make extra cash or receive an unexpected gift looks promising. Striving to be at your very best mentally, financially and physically will help raise your profile and put you in a position to advance. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for new possibilities and work toward developing partnerships with people who share your views. Channel your energy into creativity and originality, not excessive behavior or people who are bad influences. Strive to be your best and do your best. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Preparation is everything. You can make a difference and change the things you don't like if you are diligent about the way you go about turning your ideas into something spectacular. Live your dreams, stop procrastinating and make things happen. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Let others do as they please. You don't have to take part in something you don't want to do. Focus on personal improvements, socializing with like-minded people and taking care of unfinished business. Walk away from negativity and inconsistency. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set things up and follow through. You have what it takes to get things done as long as you don't let personal issues interfere with your plans. Associate with people who have something to contribute. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Participate in something that challenges you and builds your enthusiasm and belief in who you are and what you are capable of doing. A partnership will need an adjustment if you feel an imbalance. Discuss problems and solutions. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get moving. You can accomplish a lot if you communicate openly. Business trips and meetings will be gateways to new beginnings. Prepare to mix old ideas with new technology or concepts; you will be able to make a positive change. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Improve the way you handle your cash. Evaluate how you earn your living, and consider what you want to do next. You have more options than you think. Personal improvements and upgrading your skills will help you get ahead. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Just do it. Stop procrastinating, and set your sights on making changes that will improve your life. Making a move, nurturing an important relationship and taking a healthier approach to the way you live are encouraged. Change begins within yourself. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stop worrying about what others are doing, and do what suits you. Physical challenges will prompt you to improve your health and to start a daily routine that will give you added strength and stamina to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a step back and evaluate what's going on around you. If someone is acting up, behaving inconsistently or being excessive, distance yourself and move on to people and projects that are working toward a worthy cause. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring, helpful and industrious. You are passionate and outgoing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	9		8					
5		4				7		
	1			7	2	3	4	
4						2		
		1				4		
		5						8
	2	9	1	8			5	
		8				9		4
					9		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	7	1	8	5	6	9	2
9	5	2	4	6	3	8	7	1
1	8	6	2	9	7	3	4	5
6	7	5	8	4	9	2	1	3
2	9	8	6	3	1	7	5	4
4	1	3	5	7	2	9	6	8
8	3	4	9	5	6	1	2	7
5	2	9	7	1	8	4	3	6
7	6	1	3	2	4	5	8	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

UBER — Solution: 6 letters

Q	K	A	L	A	N	I	C	K	D	X	R	E	B	U
U	N	I	I	S	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	R	Y	R
O	F	O	G	N	I	P	P	A	M	E	E	A	L	E
T	E	R	I	H	R	G	N	R	R	A	T	H	A	F
E	T	X	E	T	I	O	N	A	V	T	I	S	W	S
N	I	G	O	L	A	G	F	U	M	S	S	P	S	N
B	T	I	M	E	I	T	N	I	P	E	B	I	K	A
L	A	I	C	O	S	B	R	I	L	E	E	R	R	R
A	D	H	S	A	C	O	O	O	L	A	W	T	O	T
C	O	I	F	N	U	C	A	M	P	L	C	E	W	S
K	F	E	A	T	A	U	S	E	R	S	I	L	T	O
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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ NO.: RFQ19-JUDICIARY-068

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2019 • TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"ARCHITECT-ENGINEER SERVICES ROOF, WALLS, WINDOWS, DOORS, AND VESTIBULE FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT REQUIREMENT AND APPOINTMENT REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING E-MAILED TO **MR. JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ, CNMI JUDICIARY BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR** TO john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp WITHIN AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT SUBMISSION.

A **PRE-SUBMISSION MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **09:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 29, 2019** AT THE **GUMA' HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY HALL.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG	/s/ JOAQUIN S. REYES	/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
SECRETARY OF FINANCE	ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S	CHIEF JUSTICE

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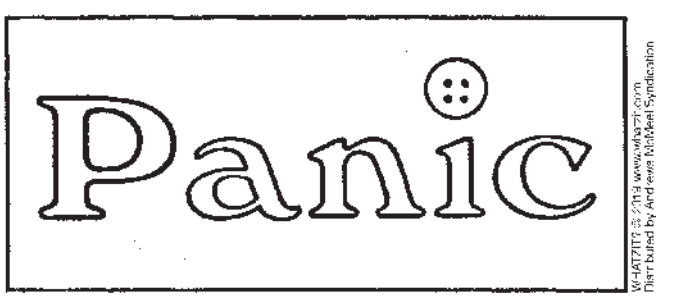

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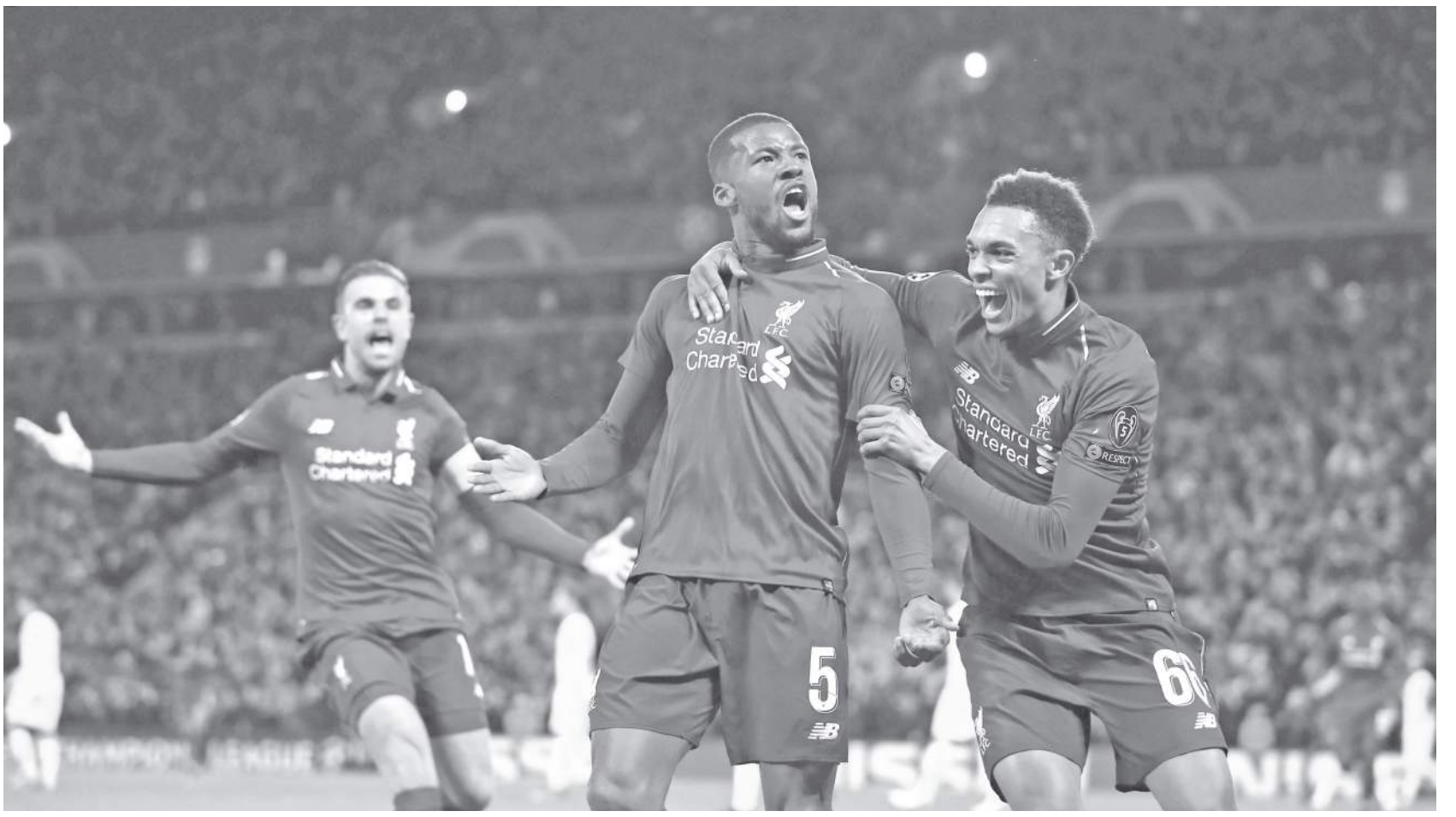


AP

Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum, center, celebrates scoring his side's third goal of the game during the Champions League semis, second leg soccer match between Liverpool and Barcelona at Anfield, Liverpool, England, Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—Liverpool's players had their hands on their heads, seemingly unable to comprehend their achievement. One of them, James Milner, was in tears. When he wasn't punching the air, Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp stood in front of The Kop in full voice and just took it all in.

Just when Liverpool fans thought they had seen it all — the so-called "Miracle of Istanbul" in particular, but also those storied comebacks at Anfield against Saint-Etienne, Olympiakos and Borussia Dortmund down the years — along came another European night that just might top them all.

The Liverpool players faced a 3-0 deficit against Barcelona from the first leg of the Champions League semifinals. They faced the great Lionel Messi, perhaps in the best form of his life. They faced fatigue from a grueling Premier League title race with Manchester City and the absence of two of the team's key forwards, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino.

How to explain, then, a remarkable 4-0 win that sent Liverpool into a second straight Champions League final, 4-3 on aggregate?

"We know this club is a mix of atmosphere, emotion, desire and footballing quality," Klopp said. "For me, this club has a big heart and tonight the heart was pounding like crazy. You could feel it all over the world."

It took a goal of breathtaking quality—but also extraordinary cheek—to complete the greatest in a long line of famous comebacks by Liverpool, which is one win away from becoming European champion for a sixth time.

Euphoria had already engulfed Anfield when Liverpool, leading 3-0 and smothering Barcelona with its intensity, was awarded a corner in the 79th minute. Trent Alexander-Arnold, a 20-year-old right back, put the ball down in the quadrant and then turned around as if he was about to leave the kick to a teammate.

In an instant, he spun round again and whipped in a low cross that Barcelona's players weren't prepared for. Divock Origi was ready, though, and he swept home a finish from eight meters (yards) into the top corner for his second goal of the game.

Klopp was full of praise for the lucid thinking of Alexander-Arnold, the youngest player on the Liverpool team, and said he hadn't even seen the corner being taken.

"Incredibly smart," Klopp said, shaking his head. "Genius."

It was only the third time in the history of the competition that a team rallied from three goals down after the first leg of a semifinal and progressed to the final, after Panathinaikos in 1970-71 and Barcelona in 1985-86. No team had done it in the Champions League era.

"When you have a collapse of this nature," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said, "we will have a few horrible days ahead."

For Barcelona, it was the second straight year that the team let a three-goal lead slip, having beaten Roma 4-1 at home in the quarterfinals in 2018 before losing the return leg 3-0 to go out.

As for Liverpool, given the opposition this display rivaled the comeback from three goals down against AC Milan in the 2005 Champions League final.

There was also the 3-1 win over Saint-Etienne in the 1977 European Cup and the 4-3 win from 2-0 down against Borussia Dortmund in the 2016 Europa League quarterfinals. The last-gasp 3-1 win over Olympiakos, sealed by Steven Gerrard's late long-range goal, in the 2004-05 group stage also lingers long in the memory.

"The people from outside, they doubted us and thought we couldn't do it," said Georginio Wijnaldum, a halftime substitute who scored two of the goals. "But once again we showed that everything is possible."

Klopp had delivered a stirring speech on the eve of the game, telling his players to "fail in a beautiful way" if they were to get eliminated.

They took that to heart.

Salah, Liverpool's top scorer who missed the game as he followed protocols after a concussion, entered the stadium before kickoff wearing a T-shirt bearing the message: "Never Give Up."

Then teammate Andrew Robertson set the tone on the field, pushing Messi's head with two hands while the Barcelona forward was on the ground after an early challenge. Fabinho followed that up with a crunching tackle on Luis Suarez, who was jeered and goaded relentlessly by Liverpool fans at the ground he graced for 3½ years.

A goal was needed to really give Barcathe jitters and it arrived after seven minutes, with Origi tapping into an empty net after goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen parried a shot by Jordan Henderson.

Barcelona already appeared rattled, with Suarez living up to his role as the player opposition fans love to hate. In one incident, the striker flicked his boot back into the right knee of Robertson as they ran along together. Robertson needed treatment and was substituted at halftime, with his injury later confirmed to be a calf muscle problem.

Wijnaldum, who replaced Robertson, made an almost instant impact, making it 2-0 by sweeping home a low cross from Alexander-Arnold. Two minutes later, the Dutch midfielder made another run into the area and met a cross from Xherdan Shaqiri with a firm header into the corner past a flat-footed Ter Stegen.

The goals came in the 54th and 56th minutes—the times of Liverpool's first two goals in that 2005 final in Istanbul.

Philippe Coutinho, another former Liverpool player, was substituted for Nelson Semedo after an ineffective display and Barca quickly improved, exerting more control. Liverpool's players might also have wondered how to approach the game with the score tied on aggregate.

Then came the coup de grace after the cheeky play by Alexander-Arnold at a corner. Barcelona had no answer, with Messi—the star of the first leg with two goals—largely snuffed out.

Tottenham or Ajax await in the June 1 final in Madrid. Ajax leads 1-0 from the first leg.

NFL concussion fund pays out $485M

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The NFL concussion fund has paid out nearly $500 million in its first two years, but some players' lawyers say there aren't enough doctors in the approved network to evaluate dementia claims.

They went to court Tuesday to oppose a rule to require retired players to be tested by doctors within 150 miles (241 kilometers) of home to prevent "doctor shopping" and suspected fraud.

Fund administrator Orran Brown said ex-players from around the country had flocked to four doctors now dismissed from the program who had "high-volume" traffic and some suspect findings.

"We didn't notice it until the claims were coming in," Brown said. "Forty-six million dollars went out the door on these claims before we could flag it."

Retired players can seek awards of as much as $3 million for moderate dementia and $1.5 million for mild dementia, although most men would get far less based on their age and years in the league. The settlement resolves thousands of lawsuits that alleged the NFL long hid what it knew about the risk of concussions.

Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody, who has overseen the case since 2011, suggested the travel limit is needed to prevent abuse.

"A few were brought to my attention where we had a lawyer from Pennsylvania and a player from Florida going to a doctor in Texas. And that was a red flag," Brody said.

Philadelphia lawyer Gene Locks, who represents some 1,100 retired players, urged Brody not to adopt the rule, saying his clients agreed to the settlement believing they could choose their own doctors.

"They had bad experiences with the NFL benefit program, both during their playing time and after their playing time, when they felt they were used and abused, and were not going to the doctors they wanted to," Locks argued.

He said there are at least 30 different subspecialties of neurology, only a few of them well-suited to evaluate his clients.

Brown acknowledged he's still trying to recruit doctors in some parts of the country for the program. He suggested Brody adopt the 150-mile (241-kilometer) rule but allow him to grant exceptions. The fund, expected to pay out more than $1 billion over 65 years, has paid out $485 million so far, and another $174 million in claims have been approved, Brown said.

The NFL has appealed about 30% of the approved claims, but closer to 15% if the four doctors removed from the program aren't counted, according to players lawyer David Buchanan.

If someone wants to travel "to see a world-renowned physician, or a world-renowned neuropsychologist, they should have that right," Buchanan said.

Lawyers for the NFL monitored the hearing but did not take part in Tuesday's arguments.

The settlement, forged in 2013 and later amended, offers more than 20,000 retired players baseline testing and compensation of up to $5 million for the most serious illnesses linked to football concussions, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Nuggets, Raptors inch closer to series win

DENVER (AP)— Nikola Jokic scored 25 points and tied a team playoff high with 19 rebounds, and Paul Millsap injected some experience into a series dominated by youth, sparking the Nuggets' 124-98 blowout of the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night that gave Denver a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Nuggets can secure their first trip to the Western Conference Finals in a decade with a win in Game 6 on Thursday night in Portland.

Millsap scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half of the first lopsided game in a series that was so evenly matched coming in that Denver held a cumulative scoring advantage of 464-462.

"Thirteen-year vet, a lot of games under his belt and he is stepping up when he need him to step up," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "I think the best thing about Paul Millsap: He's true to himself; he never tries to be something he's not. And he's not a rah-rah guy. He's not a guy that's going to be screaming and yelling.

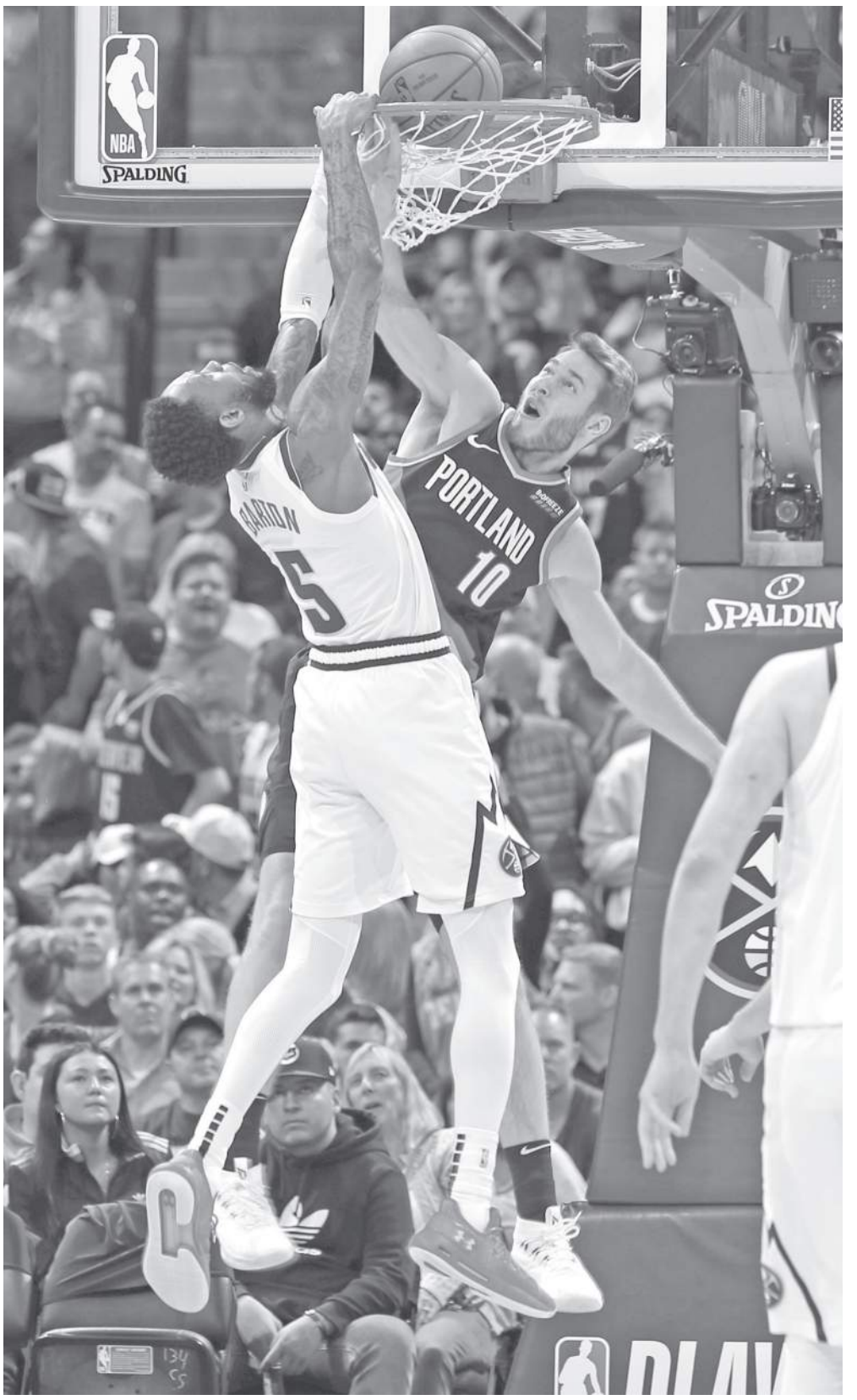
"But I think his calm nature, his calm nature, has an effect on our group. A young team going through all this for the first time and when you can look to a four-time All-Star with 90 playoff games under his belt, that's reassuring. He is kind of the calm for our team and I think that has a tremendous impact for all of our young players."

The Nuggets never trailed and stretched a six-point lead after one quarter to 18 at the half and 28 heading into the fourth quarter. They led by as many as 31 before a parade of backups gave the starters some much-needed breathers.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 22 points but again struggled from the arc, going 2 of 9 on 3-pointers.

Coming off a resounding Game 4 win that followed that epic quadruple-overtime loss, the Nuggets were focused and efficient just as Malone promised when he said Denver wouldn't dare let up and exhale at home after reclaiming the home-court advantage.

Millsap came out hot, scoring a dozen points in the first quarter. Just before halftime, he gathered a behind-the-back pass from Jamal Murray (18 points) and swished a 3-pointer while being knocked to the floor by Rodney Hood.



AP

Denver Nuggets guard Will Barton, front, dunks as Portland Trail Blazers forward Jake Layman defends during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Denver. The Nuggets won, 124-98.

His subsequent free throw gave him a four-point play and 19 first-half points as the Nuggets took a 20-point lead. Lillard, who had 18 points at the break, scored an uncontested basket just before the end of the half to pull the Trail Blazers to 65-47 heading into the locker room.

Whatever adjustments Blazers coach Terry Stotts tried to make at the half didn't take as the Nuggets outscored Portland 28-18 in the third quarter, and before long, the Blazers were thinking more about salvaging Game 6 and hoping to regroup for a return trip to Denver in hopes of a different outcome.

"We've got two must-wins ahead of us," Stotts said.

In Toronto, the Raptors came up with a new load management plan for Kawhi Leonard. It was to make sure their star forward didn't have to shoulder the entire offensive burden.

Leonard had 21 points and 13 rebounds, Pascal Siakam scored 25 points and the Raptors used a balanced attack and a huge second quarter to rout the Philadelphia 76ers 125-89 Tuesday night and take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Toronto can advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second time in four seasons with a victory in Game 6 at Philadelphia on Thursday night. The Raptors lost in six games to Cleveland in the East finals in 2016.

If the 76ers can extend the series to a seventh game, it would be played in Toronto on Sunday night.

Leonard, who had scored 33 or more points in each of the first four games of the series, shot 7 for 16 from the field and 7 for 8 at the line before checking out with 7:22 to play and Toronto up 103-73. He had four assists and two steals.

"Tonight was one of those games where we let him rest a little bit, which is important," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "He had a big double-double, but he didn't have to do everything offensively."

Leonard scored 39 points in Toronto's Game 4 win on Sunday.

Lowry scored 19 points, while Danny Green shot 5 for 7 from 3-point range and finished with 17 points. Marc Gasol scored 11 points and Serge Ibaka had 10. All five Toronto starters scored in double digits.

"Kawhi still had a great game and the surrounding cast contributed," 76ers coach Brett Brown said.

The 36-point margin was the largest in Toronto's postseason history, and marked Philadelphia's worst playoff defeat since a 40-point loss to Boston in Game 1 of the 1982 Eastern Conference finals.

"The spirit, I thought, went away a little bit quicker than I'd wished," Brown said.

Up by one after the first, the Raptors outscored the 76ers 37-17 in the second to take a 21-point lead, 64-43, at halftime.

"The second period is where it got away from us," Brown said. "I give Toronto credit, we didn't have the answers for a few of their players and it snowballed."

Ahead 92-70 at the start of the fourth, Toronto extended its lead to a game-high 40 points on a dunk by Normal Powell with 2:24 remaining.

The Raptors shot 16 for 40 from 3-point range, setting a franchise record for 3-pointers in a postseason game. They hadn't made more than 10 in the four previous games this series.

"The 3-point shot was punishing tonight," Brown said.

Jimmy Butler scored 22 points and Tobias Harris had 15 for the 76ers, who have lost two straight after winning the previous two.

Joel Embiid scored 13 points and had eight turnovers. Embiid started despite missing the morning shoot-around because of flu-like symptoms.

"Offensively there was a rhythm to his game that was clearly out of synch," Brown said. "He's been in bed for two days."

Embiid also battled illness in Games 2 and 4.

"I know I've got to do a better job for us to win," Embiid said.

Sixers guard Ben Simmons shot 3 for 5 and finished with seven points, seven rebounds, and five turnovers.

Siakam scored nine points in the first and Lowry had eight as Toronto led 27-26 after one. Leonard had seven rebounds and five points in the first.

Ibaka needed three stitches to close a cut on his forehead after he was inadvertently elbowed by Leonard in the opening quarter. Ibaka returned to start the second and, despite a visible bump on his head, soon scored his first points by blowing past Embiid for a dunk.

Green scored nine points in the second, making three of Toronto's four 3-pointers.

Leonard, who missed six of his first eight shots, punctuated Toronto's decisive second quarter with a powerful one-handed slam, driving into the paint from near center court and splitting a pair of defenders to throw it down with 2.6 seconds left.

Durant and Harden duel may go distance; Bucks can finish Celtics

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Kevin Durant vs. James Harden. This duel may just go the distance, and the two stars know it.

Everyone figured the Western Conference semifinal between Golden State and Houston had a chance to be more like the NBA Finals in terms of talent on each side, and now it's tied at 2-all.

The NBA's best are dazzling on defense and trading big shots on offense.

"The way both teams are playing with such intensity and aggression, it's fun to be out there," Durant said. "We're looking forward to Game 5."

The series resumes Wednesday night at Oracle Arena, which could host its final game if Golden State doesn't handle business at home. The Warriors will move to new Chase Center in San Francisco next season.

"The mood's good. Playoffs, this is what it's about," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said Tuesday afternoon once his team touched down in Oakland. "Our team has been here many times. We've been in much worse situations, being down in a series, being on the road for Game 7s. We've pretty much seen it all. This is just another chapter in the book."

Also Wednesday, Boston will try to stave off elimination playing at Milwaukee. The Bucks are up 3-1.

"These kinds of situations show a lot about people," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "It doesn't always mean you're going to have success. But competing at the level you need to compete and making sure you're as urgent as you've ever been on every possession is of ultimate importance."

Back in the Bay Area, Splash Brothers Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson will try to find their shooting touch. They combined to shoot 9 of 35 on 3-pointers and 30 of 79 overall the past two games.

Curry and Durant each missed good looks from long range with a chance to tie Game 4 in the waning seconds.

Chris Paul and Harden, meanwhile, know they might have swung momentum after evening the series with Monday night's 112-108 victory.

"I hope so. I hope we have it," Harden said. "We're not going to let up. We're going to keep coming at you until the end of the game."

Athletics' Fiers records season's first no-hitter

OAKLAND (AP)—The Oakland Athletics' Mike Fiers completed the 2019 season's first no-hitter, blanking the Cincinnati Reds in a 2-0 win Tuesday night.

It was the second no-hitter of Fiers' career. In 2015, Fiers pitched a no-hitter for the Houston Astros against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Reds' first baserunner came with two outs in the fourth inning when Jesse Winker reached on an error by Gold Glove third baseman Matt Chapman, who was in a defensive shift. In the top of the seventh inning, the Reds' Eugenio Suarez walked, but was forced out on a double-play ball hit by Jesse Winkler. Yasiel Puig then walked, too, but Derek Dietrich's pop out to third ended the inning.

The A's backed Fiers with two outstanding defensive plays. Second baseman Jurickson Profar made a diving catch on Kyle Farmer's popup into short right field and center fielder Ramon Laureano made a leaping catch at the fence to rob Joey Votto of extra bases.

AP

Oakland Athletics pitcher Mike Fiers works against the Cincinnati Reds during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Dodgers 9, Braves 0

In Los Angeles, Hyun-Jin Ryu tossed a four-hit shutout, Justin Turner homered three times and the Dodgers routed the Atlanta Braves for their ninth straight win at home.

Tyler Flowers singled to left leading off the sixth for Ryu's first baserunner of the game. Former Dodger Charlie Culberson grounded into a double play that quickly cleared the base paths.

Turner's three homers and six RBIs were career highs. His last blast came in the eighth, a three-run shot into the left field pavilion that extended the lead to 9-0.

Ryu (4-1) struck out five and walked none in his second career complete game. His first came on May 28, 2013, at home against the Angels.

Royals 12, Astros 2

In Houston, Whit Merrifield and Ryan O'Hearn each hit a grand slam to lead the Kansas City Royals to a romp over the Astros.

Danny Duffy (1-1) allowed six hits and two runs in 6 2/3 innings for his first win this season in his third start after missing the early part of the season with a shoulder injury.

Merrifield, who had four hits and finished a double shy of the cycle, tied a career high with five RBIs. Jorge Soler added a solo homer as the Royals snapped a two-game skid and won just their fifth road game this season.

Angels 5, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Shohei Ohtani went 0 for 4 with an RBI groundout and walked once in his season debut as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Tigers.

The Angels activated the AL Rookie of the Year from the injured list and looking very eager to make an impact, Ohtani swung so hard at times that his helmet flew off his head.

Ohtani took a called third strike in his first at-bat, grounded out to help Los Angeles take a 3-0 lead in the third, struck out on a breaking pitch, lined out to third and drew a base on balls.

The 24-year-old two-way player isn't expected to pitch this year as he recovers from Tommy John surgery in October. But the Angels, who are under .500, are hoping he can provide a boost as their designated hitter.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer and J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts also connected to help the Boston Red Sox beat the Orioles.

After having their run of six straight games with a long ball snapped by Baltimore one night earlier, the Red Sox scored their first six runs on homers and won for the seventh time in nine games.

Martinez hit a two-run drive in the first inning, Bogaerts delivered a solo shot in the fourth and Moreland's team-leading 10th home run, off rookie Branden Kline (1-1), put Boston ahead 6-3 in the fifth.

After Baltimore closed to 6-5, Moreland hit a sacrifice fly to cap a two-run ninth.

Yankees 5, Mariners 4

In New York, Cameron Maybin narrowly beat right fielder Jay Bruce's throw home on DJ LeMahieu's game-ending, ninth-inning hit, lifting the Yankees over the Seattle Mariners.

LeMahieu drove a single to right off Roenis Elias, and Maybin charged in from second and slid feet-first around a tag from catcher Omar Narváez. Plate umpire Dana DeMuth's safe call was upheld on replay review.

Gio Urshela hit a tying two-run homer three batters earlier, a shot to center off Anthony Swarzak (2-2).

Phillies 11, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Bryce Harper hit a grand slam, his first with the Phillies, and Rhys Hoskins added four hits, including a homer, to spark Philadelphia to a rout of the Cardinals.

Harper's homer capped a six-run second inning. Philadelphia took advantage of two errors and two walks as all six runs were unearned.

Aaron Nola (3-0) allowed three hits in six innings, giving up one run. He struck out seven.

Dakota Hudson (2-3) gave up eight runs in five innings.

White Sox 2, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Lucas Giolito carried a shutout into the eighth inning and James McCann stayed with hot with an RBI single, leading the Chicago White Sox to a win over the light-hitting, light-scoring Indians.

Giolito (3-1) didn't have to work hard against the Indians, who came in batting an AL-low .213—13 points lower than the next closest team, and 62 behind the league-leading Houston Astros.

The Indians wasted a strong outing by starter Jefry Rodriguez (0-2). Cleveland has been shut out twice in three games and scored just one run in the past 27 innings.

Giolito, who allowed just three hits, retired the leadoff hitter to start what became an eventful eighth.

Twins 3, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, José Berríos allowed four hits in seven innings, Mitch Garver homered and the Minnesota Twins shut out the Toronto Blue Jays for the second straight night.

Berríos (6-1) won a career-best fifth consecutive start as the AL Central-leading Twins won for the eighth time in 11 games and moved a season-high 10 games over .500. The 24-year-old right-hander struck out five.

Trevor Hildenberger and Trevor May worked the eighth, and Taylor Rogers pitched the ninth to complete the six-hitter and earn his fourth save.

Rays 6, Diamondbacks 3

In St. Petersburg, Brandon Lowe homered on the first pitch in the bottom of the first, opener Ryne Stanek and five other relievers combined on a seven-hitter, and the Tampa Bay Rays moved to a season-high 11 games over .500 with a win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Lowe drove in his second run on a grounder during a three-run seventh as Tampa Bay improved to 9-1-2 in series play by taking the first two games of the three-game set.

Brewers 6, Nationals 0

In Milwaukee, Lorenzo Cain's three-run double with two outs in the seventh inning broke a scoreless tie and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Washington Nationals for their fifth straight win.

Nationals star Anthony Rendon had a rough and frustrating return to the lineup after missing 14 games because of a bruised left elbow caused when he was hit by a pitch.

Cy Young winner and free agent won't settle

Dallas Keuchel, the 2015 American League Cy Young winner, never envisioned that he would still be unemployed in May.

Yet, he remains a free agent and will continue to be until he gets a fair market value.

"This is not a me thing," Keuchel said. "This is for the greater good of baseball. This is for principle."

Keuchel, along with closer Craig Kimbrel, is one of several big-named players watching from the sidelines—a move he doesn't intend to last the whole season.

"If you would've asked me on the first day of free agency, I would have said no way I'd be here on May 6," said Keuchel. "This was not the plan at all. I would love to be out there playing ball and helping a team win. Because, to my career at this point, I've done more winning than I have losing and at a much higher clip. So what team wouldn't want me to be out there? Am I the best at this point in time? No. But am I more than or better than some of the offers I've been given? Absolutely.

"That's not me being greedy. That's just my compensation in the market from what the analytical data is telling me. I didn't come up with this. The front offices came up with this. So now they're trying to tell me I'm less than what the analytical data is saying. How is that possible?"

Keuchel, 31, remains healthy and didn't miss a start for the Houston Astros in 2018. He has a 76-63 record with a career 3.66 ERA over seven seasons.

According to Keuchel, he has fielded some offers—just none that been a good fit, despite the advice from his agent Scott Boras.

Instead of taking a pay cut, in his eyes, he prefers to remain unemployed.

"I lead the ship," he said. "Scott will give me information in general. He gives me necessary information for me to make a knowledgeable decision on my future. … And if it were up to him I would probably be signed at this point. He wants me out there throwing, pitching, and putting up stats that are quality major league stats. I told him no on numerous deals because it's about principle. It's about fair market value. And I wasn't getting that.

Federer triumphs in return to clay-court swing

MADRID (AP)—Roger Federer looked as comfortable as ever on his return to clay.

Showing no signs of rust after skipping clay-court tournaments the last two seasons, Federer cruised to a 6-2, 6-3 win over Richard Gasquet at the Madrid Open on Tuesday.

The fourth-seeded Federer needed less than an hour to win his first match on clay since 2016 and reach the third round in the Spanish capital.

"It feels good to be back on the clay," Federer said. "I enjoyed it. Some of these rallies, where you get pushed to the side, you slide. You can play in a different manner than you do on the hard courts or the grass."

The 37-year-old Federer skipped the clay season the last two years to make sure he was fit for the rest of the year. The 20-time Grand Slam champion is preparing to make his first French Open appearance since 2015. He has won two hard-court titles this season, in Dubai and Miami. He is a three-time winner in Madrid, with his last title in 2012.

The fourth-seeded Swiss converted his three break points and didn't concede any to the 39th-ranked Gasquet at the "Magic Box" center court.

Gasquet was playing in his first tournament after enduring a going injury early in the year.

"I think Richard was also maybe a little bit hurt from his match yesterday, so it was nice seeing him back after so many months being away from the tour with injury," Federer said. "I think for both of us it was a special match being back here in Madrid."

AP

Roger Federer returns the ball to Richard Gasquet during the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Earlier, top-ranked Novak Djokovic started with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Taylor Fritz. He broke the American's serve once in the first set and twice in the second, conceding only one break opportunity. The top-seeded Serb had seven aces and lost only two service points in the second set.

"I don't think he was playing at his best today," Djokovic said. "But I think it was a solid opening match for me in the tournament."

Djokovic is seeking his second title of the year, and third overall in Madrid. He began the year by winning the Australian Open.

David Ferrer extended his career with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 win over Roberto Bautista Agut, setting up a second-round meeting with defending champion Alexander Zverev. The 37-year-old Ferrer is retiring after the tournament.

"I want to be with my family and try to enjoy as much as possible the time that I have to play in this center court," the Spaniard said. "And tomorrow I have another opportunity and I'll go out there to try to enjoy every single feeling that I might experience out there."

Stan Wawrinka ended a three-match losing streak in Madrid by defeating Pierre-Hugues Herbert, 6-2, 6-3.

TANHOLDINGS

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scoring in the second half with her shot in the 26th minute, while Aldrich took over the rest of the way after finding the back of the net in the 28th, 37th, 40th, and 47th. Brasuell hit the board in the 42nd, while Gregory got her fifth and last in the 43rd.

While Matansa-1 was busy scoring in the second half, MP United answered with only a pair (the match report did not indicate who scored for the losing squad).

Meanwhile, TanHoldings followed Matansa-1's lead after cruising to a 5-0 victory over Matansa-2.

TanHoldings ran a balance attack, as five different players scored against Matansa-2. Jessica Ortize kicked things off for TanHoldings with her goal in the eight minute, while Victoria Camama made it a 2-0 advantage at the break with her shot in the 21st minute.

When the game resumed, it was Eun Benavente's turn to light up the board in the 31st minute, while Magie Chavez and Minda Phan delivered the last two goals for TanHoldings.

Meanwhile, Kanoa FC played a better offense in the second half to beat Topnotch, 5-2.

The second half started with the opposing teams in a standoff, 1-1. Kanoa got an own goal in the first half, while Maria Ornes made the lone goal for Topnotch.

Topnotch went on to take a 2-1 lead off Shawna Brennfleck's goal in the 25th minute, but the team's stay on top was short-lived, as Kanoa players got their acts together in the ensuing plays to take the win.

Catherine Toves fired the equalizer in the 34th minute, while Loyda Ito's goal five minutes later put Kanoa in the driver's seat. Ito scored another goal in the 45th minute, while earlier in the 40th, Merlie Tolentino gave Kanoa more cushion en route to their first win of the season. Kanoa bowed to MP United in the season opener last month and then settled for a draw against TanHoldings in the second week of the league.

KANOA

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half, thanks to Ian Song's goal in the 29th minute. However, Kanoa had the last say in the opening frame when Omelau scored anew a few seconds before the halftime break.

When the game resumed, it was MP United that hit the board first, courtesy of Moshe Sikkel's goal in the 38th minute. However, Kanoa countered with Han closing out for the division champion in the 58th minute.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings finished second in the final team standings after edging out Shirley's Football Club, 4-3. in the other match in the division last weekend.

Mark Costales fired two goals for TanHoldings with his second one, giving their team the insurance. Costales' other goal was registered in the eighth minute and tied the game early, as it came one minute after Jayvin Bisek put Shirley's on the board.

Monico Claridades then handed TanHoldings its second goal in the 25th minute, but Shirley's knotted the count anew off Jurvin Bisek's conversion two minutes later. The seesaw battle continued with Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez's goal in the closing minutes of the first half putting TanHoldings back on top, 3-2.

After their shaky lead at the break, Costales earned his second goal in the 48th minute, giving TanHoldings cushion. Shirley's then threatened TanHoldings with Jayvin Bisek's shot in the 50th minute, but the former eventually fell short in its comeback bid in the second half.

NMIFA Spring Youth League
Final Standings (Unofficial)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	9	9	0	0	65	13	52	27
TanHoldings	9	5	0	4	29	34	-6	15
MP United	9	3	0	6	23	32	-9	9
Shirley's	9	1	0	8	16	54	-38	3

GECKOS

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Finn Altizer, William Lee, Letrell Pelisamen, and Xavier Lee and they notched several Top 6 finishes in their respective events to hand the Geckos the top honors in the division. SIS defeated Koblerville Elementary School (129 points), San Vicente (101), William S. Reyes (88), and Tinian (63).

William Lee ruled the U11's 1,500m run with a time of 6:20.07, placed second in the 800m run, and third in the softball throw and 200m run.

In other results in the U11 age group, WSR's Tyrone Manipon, Saipan Community's David Ye, and WSR's Joseph Tesiro took the Top 3 finish in the 60m run. San Vicente's Christopher Cruz won the gold medal in the 100m run, while Rota's Ryan Manglona got the silver, and the former's classmate Brandon Solomon clinched the bronze. Cruz also won the 200m and 400m runs, while Rota's Victor Barcinas and Manipon were the runners-up. In the long jump, Manipon earned the gold, while Ye and Tesiro bagged the silver and bronze, respectively.

In the U9 age group, Brilliant Star School missed the Top 5 overall, but its student, Moshe Sikkel, clinched four gold medals after prevailing in the 100m, 200, 400m, and 800m. Mt. Carmel School's Arstin Tagabuel and Tinian's Jerdon Cruz joined Sikkel in the Top 3 in the 100m run, while Kelley McCallion was the runner-up both in the 400m and 800m races. In the 60m run, Jayson Tagabuel nailed the gold medal and was joined in the podium by Cruz and San Vicente's Johncel Joaquin.

After his two second place finishes, McCallion finally notched a gold medal when he won the 1,500m run. SIS had a 1-2 finish in the longest race in the competition with Altizer timing in at 7:09.95 against McCallion's 6:11.43.

In the two field events, Mt. Carmel was awarded the gold, thanks to Arstin Tagabuel's 3.03 meters in the long jump, while Max Taitano handed Brilliant Star another gold after winning the softball throw (38.39m). Mt. Carmel's Jayson Tagabuel and San Vicente's Joaquin got the silver and bronze, respectively, in the softball throw, while WSR's Austine Aldan and Koblerville's Tanner McClure joined Arstin Tagabuel in the podium in the long jump.

JON PEREZ

Participants in the elementary division of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships pose for a photo at the conclusion of the competition last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary school students compete in the 1,500m run during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Liverpool stuns Messi, Barca in historic comeback

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Nuggets, Raptors inch closer to series win

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Geckos reign supreme

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School won the overall championship in the boys elementary division of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

Northern Marianas Athletics

The Geckos' U7, U9, and U11 students combined for 145 points after competing in six running races and two field events over the weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex. Suiting up for SIS were Dean Duenas, Oliver and Kelley McCallion, Andre Guerrero, William Hasselback, Daniel Kang,

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JON PEREZ
Saipan International School's Oliver McCallion competes in the boys U7's 800m run during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Kanoa earns perfect record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Kanoa Football Club player tries to break free from a TanHoldings FC defender during an earlier game in the co-ed U12 division of the NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Kanoa earned an unbeaten record this season.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

Kanoa Football Club is unbeaten in the co-ed U12 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Kanoa posted a perfect record this season after downing MP United, 5-3, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. The division champion finished the competition with a 9-0-0 win-draw-loss record, while MP United ended up at third place with its 3-0-6 mark.

Tyler Omelau scored two goals for Kanoa, while Raymond Dejillas, Paul Lizama, and Taehun Han chipped in one goal apiece. Kanoa made all of its four goals in the first half with Dejillas drawing first blood right in the opening minute of the game and Lizama getting on the board in the 15th minute.

A Jim Takeru goal in the 24th minute moved MP United within one, but Omelau's shot four minutes later gave Kanoa more cushion. MP United then got another goal in the first

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TanHoldings, Matansa-1 ease past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dove Women's League

Matansa Football Club-1 and TanHoldings dominated their respective opponents, while Kanoa completed the winners list in last Sunday's triple-header in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League.

Matansa-1 played in the curtain-raiser last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex and walloped MP United FC, 11-2.

Wanta Aldrich and Wasana Gregory teamed up for Matansa-1 in demolishing MP United as they scored five goals apiece. Bunruang Brasuelle drilled the other goal for the unbeaten squad.

Gregory was on target early, as she nailed a hat trick in a span of 14 minutes. She got her first goal in the fifth minute, while the second came in the 10th, and the third four minutes later. Aldrich then delivered Matansa-1's last goal in the first half (20th minute), while MP United failed to counter.

Gregory opened Matansa-1's

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club-2's Elna Curate uses her knee to deflect the ball, while TanHoldings FC's Minda Phan defends during the masters division game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.